

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the Mayor of the City of New Haven to execute and deliver a Programmatic Agreement between the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) and the City of New Haven concerning Section 106 Review Process. (Economic Development Administrator)

REPORT: 1552-15

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The City of New Haven actively administers several Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded programs, including the Entitlement Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, and Healthy Home and Lead Hazard Control. In order to remain eligible to request and spend HUD funding, the City is mandated by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to participate in the NHPA Section 106 review process, requiring the City to review potential effects of federally funded projects on historic properties. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Policy Statement on Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) have determined that the City can more efficiently carry out their Section 106 review responsibilities for federally funded program activities by identifying activities that can be exempted from the review. Thus, the City proposes to enter into a five (5) year programmatic agreement with SHPO with regards to improving efficiency of the Section 106 review process.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed programmatic agreement with SHPO will enable designated NEPA reviewers on New Haven city staff and/or consultants to determine certain proposed changes, such as interior renovations and minor exterior renovations to be considered exempt from the Section 106 review process, effectively simplifying and streamlining the administrative process when reviewing federally funded activities. It will also provide for the opportunity for city staff and/or consultant preservation professionals to determine the eligibility of historic buildings for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, ultimately supporting New Haven's Vision 2025 goal to preserve and protect historically significant structures in the City.

ADVICE

The Commission recommends approval.

ADOPTED: December 19, 2018
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: MPL.
Michael Piscitelli, AICP
Acting Economic Development Administrator