

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the Mayor to accept \$300,000 in funding from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and sign any associated state agreements, agreements with contractors and other documents that may be desirable or necessary, including any subsequent amendments to agreements, regarding the construction of a memorial garden at Valley Street. (Director of Parks, Recreation and Trees)

REPORT: 1554-19

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

At its December 11, 2018 Bond Commission meeting, the State of Connecticut authorized \$300,000 of State Bond Funding from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for infrastructure improvements to a park parcel on Valley Street and for the creation of The Lost Generation Memorial Garden to honor victims lost to gun violence. In early 2017, with support from the Urban Resources Initiative (URI) and the New Haven Police Department, a group of New Haven mothers who have lost children to gun violence initiated the Memorial Garden project with goals to create a place for families to remember, honor, and celebrate those lost to gun violence, raise awareness of the impacts of gun violence, and encourage community leaders to collaboratively work to reduce gun violence.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection funding will help the City achieve New Haven Vision 2025 goals of preserving, maintaining and enhancing a currently underutilized parks parcel. Residents of New Haven will significantly benefit from funding used to develop The Lost Generation Memorial Garden on Valley Street and will have a tranquil space to memorialize victims of gun violence. Several stewardship projects, including clearing of invasive species and planting of trees and shrubs, have already begun on the site.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Resolution in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: February 20, 2019
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: MPL
Michael Piscitelli, AICP
Interim Economic Development Administrator