

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the mayor to execute a settlement agreement between United Illuminating Company; Omni Hotel; CSD Mall, LLC, CSD Tower, LLC and Chapel Square Association Inc (collectively, PMC); and OP Chapel Square Owner, LLC (Pro Park) pursuant to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) Docket No. 16-01-42. (City Engineer)

REPORT: 1521-06

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

This settlement agreement (despite the title, there is, at present, no litigation, because negotiations between the various interested parties have led to this proposed solution that is designed to avoid the same) allows United Illuminating (UI) to construct a new vault, a portion of which will be located within the City's right of way (shown as Exhibit A to the Settlement Agreement) and, accordingly, approval of the Board of Alders is required. Expenses to construct the new vault shall be borne by UI except for the costs related to the switching and cabling equipment. The City is responsible for \$30,000 of said costs, which will be offset by a \$10,000 net payment from UI in consideration of the City granting permission to UI to partially obstruct the City's right of way, such payment to be simultaneous with the City's payment to UI.

The Agreement was negotiated under the auspices of the Prosecutorial Staff of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, which agrees to support the approval of the Settlement Agreement by PURA.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The settlement agreement resolves the issues concerning electrical service to a large city block in downtown New Haven that are set forth in docket filings in PURA Docket No. 16-01-42. The existing vault, together with the equipment within it, is aging and the vault's environment has deteriorated. A failure of the equipment in the vault could result in a long outage that would affect the entire city block.

ADVICE

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

ADOPTED: August 24, 2016
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director