

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Approving the Economic Development Administration to apply for and accept an initial planning grant for the CTNext Innovation Place designation from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and authorize the mayor to execute all documents related to the planning grant. (Office of the Mayor)

REPORT: 1521-10

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The CTNext Innovation Place program is a new statewide competition to receive an Innovation Place designation, which fosters growth in the technology and innovation industries by making official Innovation Places eligible for exclusive CTNext grants and additional points on existing DECD and other state grants.

The first step of that process is the application for a planning grant, described by DECD as the following:

“A community may apply for a grant to conduct a strategic planning process to discover and understand the relevant emerging conditions, risks, and opportunities they face; to decide which capabilities the community needs; and to plan catalytic actions to build and leverage their capabilities to take advantage of those conditions, risks, and opportunities. These processes should result in an Innovation Places Master Plan and Implementation Grant Application from the community. Awards will be up to \$50,000.”

According to the goals of this program, this planning process is to be conducted by “a multi-party, highly collaborative consortium involving many players working to make their locale a destination of choice for entrepreneurs and innovative people”

This group, made up of entrepreneurs, local incubators, institutional partners, and representation from the City and the Board of Alders, will be responsible for collaboratively assembling the full plan for New Haven’s application for Innovation Place designation, a process which begins with their completion of the planning grant application by September 12, 2016.

Planning grants of up to \$50,000 will be disbursed in November 2016. Funding will be managed by the City and directed by this strategic planning group for planning, research, and preparation of the final application. Once completed by the strategic planning group, the final application for Innovation Place designation will be submitted to the Board of Alders for approval, needed before final submission to DECD in April 2017.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

While dependent on the decisions of this group, possible funded activities include local asset mapping, gap spotting, interviews and surveys, design, and preparation of the final application. Any grants won can assist the City in funding its various other planning and development efforts as envisioned in the Comprehensive Plan and other documents. Furthermore, comprehensive planning for the continued development of the New Haven innovation economy would include strategies to attract new businesses and jobs, develop existing local partnerships, and train and support New Haven residents to participate in the innovation economy. A thriving local innovation economy would bring jobs, economic activity, and recognition to New Haven, while increasing our regional competitiveness for economic growth.

ADVICE

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

ADOPTED: August 24, 2016
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director