

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** In support of voluntary non-use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers on lawns and gardens by the people of New Haven. (New Haven Environmental Advisory Council)

REPORT: 1524-10

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The New Haven Environmental Advisory Council passed a lawn pesticide and synthetic fertilizer voluntary non-use resolution at its October 5, 2016 meeting. The Council has submitted this Resolution to the Board of Alders, and asked the Board to adapt it as a City ordinance.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Pesticides and synthetic fertilizers are known to have negative environmental effects, including:

- Regular use of pesticides kills the beneficial insects and healthy organisms, which will, when left alone, limit the unwanted pests.
- Children, pets, and the unborn child are particularly vulnerable to adverse health effects of synthetic lawn pesticides such as cancer, asthma, and neurodevelopmental disorders.
- Nitrogen-based fertilizers release unnatural amounts of nitrogen oxide into the atmosphere causing the greenhouse effect that results in further global warming. The increasing amounts of Nitrogen deplete oxygen and will in turn result in stress and death to the fish and plant life in the waters of Long Island Sound.

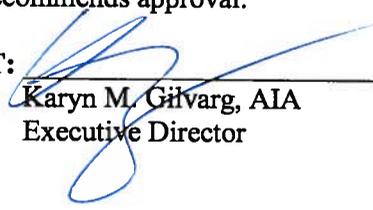
Further, the City of New Haven has rivers and streams in the watershed of Long Island Sound, which are subject to non-point source pollution. This pollution threatens the ecosystems of the Sound and its water quality. Reducing non-point source pollution is one of the recommendations of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

This resolution encourages City residents and land owners to refrain from using pesticides and synthetic fertilizers, but does not ban or penalize their use. Therefore, there is no burden placed upon the people of New Haven.

ADVICE

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

ADOPTED: November 16, 2016
 Edward Mattison
 Chair

ATTEST: 
 Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
 Executive Director