

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Approving the Parks Department to apply for and accept \$12,000 from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection America the Beautiful grant program. (Director of Department of Parks, Recreation, and Trees)

REPORT: 1503-07

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Before the Board is a Resolution approving the Parks Department to apply for and accept \$12,000 from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) America the Beautiful grant program.

In 2009, the City recognized that it was removing more trees than it was planting, and it embarked on a 10,000 tree campaign with the goal of planting more trees than are removed each year. In 2010, the City designated Urban Resources Initiative (URI) as the sole vendor for the tree campaign. In 2013, URI received outside funding to visit and prune the majority of trees planted between 2007 and 2009. The America the Beautiful grant program will leverage existing resources to enable the Parks Department and URI to invest in the structural pruning of an additional 1,100 trees that were planted between 2009 and 2010.

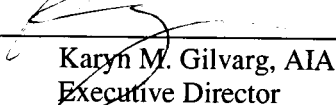
PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The pruning of young trees is essential to ensuring a healthy and safe canopy in the future. Structural pruning will save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars in future tree work and drastically lower the risk of tree failure in storms. New Haven currently suffers from too many mature trees that were not structurally pruned at a young age and as a result have grown into problem trees with multiple leaders and included bark that requires more complex and labor-intensive pruning or even removal. Pruning out the potentially problematic branches now, while they are still small and easily accessible, is a simple and cost-effective way to manage the health of New Haven's future urban forest and preserve the City's investment in the tree canopy that helps to reduce ambient summer temperatures, sequester CO₂, and provide tree-lined streets in all neighborhoods of the City.

ADVICE

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

ADOPTED: March 18, 2015
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director