

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** of the City of New Haven authorizing the filing of an **APPLICATION WITH THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION** an award in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 to fund the salary and programmatic work of a Chief Resilience Officer (Director of Development and Policy, Mayor's Office)

REPORT: 1498-08

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Before the Board is a Resolution authorizing Mayor Harp to apply for and accept a grant and participate as part of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities program. The 100 Resilient Cities Challenge is an international competition sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation that enables cities to develop resilience to environment shocks and chronic social stressors. The Rockefeller Fund supported HUD's recent Resilience by Design effort, with a project in Bridgeport. Bridgeport received \$10m in HUD Hurricane Sandy assistance as a result of their participation in RBD. New Haven's application is linked to Bridgeport and Stamford as all three small cities face similar challenges.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The program would enable the City to expand operations and improve emergency management through funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer and obtain free-technical assistance in developing and implementing a resilience strategy. The Chief Resilience Officer and resiliency strategy would enable the City to better combat environmental shocks and socioeconomic stressors, such as flooding, blizzards, hurricanes, coastal erosion, as well as poverty, unemployment, and crime. The Chief Resilience Officer would also partner with the cities of Bridgeport and Stamford to advance regional resiliency projects including improvement of rail and highway systems, as well as flood mitigation.

ADVICE

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

ADOPTED: October 15, 2014
 Edward Mattison
 Chair

ATTEST: 
 Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
 Executive Director