

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

**RE: BOARD OF ALDERS REFERRAL REGARDIN ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT CONCERNING UTILITY LINE CLEARANCE**
regarding tree pruning and tree removals. (Joint City Services and
Environmental Policy/Legislation, and City Plan, Parks, Alder Stratton)

REPORT:1489-10

ADVICE: Table Pending PURA review of United Illuminating Tree Trimming Plan

BACKGROUND

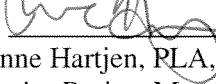
Alder Michael Stratton (19) has submitted an Order to the Board which would require that officials of the City of New Haven be notified and consulted prior to trimming, pruning or removal of any tree by utility companies operating within the city limits.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The public utility companies are authorized under existing state law and regulation to trim trees and vegetation that might impair their lines. This issue was heightened with the recent hurricane, windstorms and ice storms that have damaged or brought down tree limbs and whole trees, cutting off utilities all over the state. The public concern over lengthy power and telecommunications interruptions was heard statewide. The utility companies' reaction, drastic cutting and removal of entire trees (including some that were previously pruned or cut back) has elicited an equally strong reaction. While it is likely some sort of local legislation would be useful the Commission is concerned that PURA (Public Utility Regulatory Authority), which has jurisdiction over utility companies has not yet reviewed United Illuminating's tree-cutting and trimming program.

ADVICE: The Commission urges that the Board of Alders table discussion of new legislation until the PURA is heard from.

ADOPTED: February 19, 2014
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Anne Hartjen, PLA, ASLA
Senior Project Manager