

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATING ORDINANCE #3,
an Ordinance Authorizing Issuance of General Obligation Bonds for FY 2012-2013, increasing Line Item for Street Trees by \$160,000 (Chief Administrative Officer).

REPORT: 1467-14

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Before the Board is a request from the Chief Administrative Officer to increase a line item in the capital budget by \$160,000 to allow for increased tree trimming as a preventive measure. Normally tree trimming would not be considered a capital expenditure, but this request comes from the added awareness and anticipation that ongoing maintenance, trimming and pruning of our City's street trees as part of a structured program could result in fewer fallen limbs, downed power lines and power outages in the fiscal year ahead, and thus saving the City's taxpayers from additional expenses.

Line item 1316 of Appropriating Ordinance #3, authorizing General Obligation bonds would be increased from \$350,000 to \$510,000 with the addition of \$160,000 in additional funds for Street Trees, thereby increasing the total capital expenditure from \$14,637,542 to \$14,797,542.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

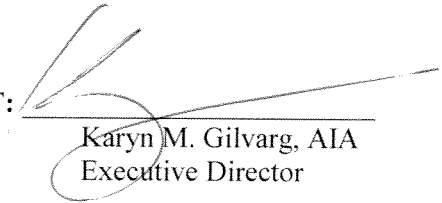
The CAO was asked by the Finance Committee to identify the additional \$160,000, without going to emergency trimming or tree planting funds. While he was reluctant to identify capital funds, the capital budget adjustment appeared to be the least disruptive of measures which could be taken. The Commission advocates a structured program as a preventive measure to stabilize the health of the City's large inventory of street trees. Similar to programs for cleaning of catch basins or repaving of streets, street trimming should be part of the City's preventive maintenance program for its infrastructure, whether or not capital funds are involved.

ADVICE

The Commission recommends approval.

ADOPTED: June 20, 2012
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director