

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: LONG TERM/PERMANENT HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT, Policy Recommendation (Chair of the Homeless Advisory Commission).

REPORT: 1468-08

ADVICE: Support Policy Recommendation and Goals of Homeless Commission

BACKGROUND

Before the Board is a Resolution by the City of New Haven Homeless Advisory Commission on the issue of permitting long term or permanent outside homeless encampment (see attached). The Resolution adopted on June 14, 2012 reaffirms the Homeless Commission's support of the goals of the City's ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness and the follow-up goal to increase the number of new affordable and supportive housing units and promote preventive services serving the needs of the homeless. It reaffirms its goal that the homeless confront their issues and move into temporary shelter and then into permanent affordable and supportive settings. It acknowledges that homelessness has spread to all economic groups across demographic lines and a commitment to reduce or eliminate the causes and diversity found in homelessness should be a societal priority.

The Resolution recommends that any policy or request for a decision to enable those who are homeless to permanently establish living environments in outside public or private lands, defeats all attempts to promote positive movement towards individual self worth and betterment, should be denied.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Enabled by the City Code of Ordinances Section 2-761, the Homeless Advisory Commission is charged with monitoring planning documents which address the issue of homelessness in the City, studying the conditions of homeless persons and families and the facilities that provide services to them, and making recommendations to the Mayor on homelessness issues. The City Plan Commission believes that the Homeless Commission's Resolution is therefore appropriately before the Board.

Recent protest movements across the country organized to oppose social and economic inequality have resulted in encampments on public and private lands, including one on the New Haven Green. There are numerous reasons why outside encampments - whether on public or private land, whether temporary or permanent, or for whatever purpose - are not in the best interest of the City. First and foremost, public lands such as city parks are for the use and enjoyment of all City residents during hours where park rules may be enforced for the health, safety and welfare of all. Uses on public lands are restricted by the City's Code of Ordinances which regulates hours of operation, prohibits camping or staying overnight in public parks, and allows for enforcement of such.

ADVICE

The City Plan Commission supports the Homeless Commission's Resolution and supports the efforts of the Commission towards its goals as stated in the Resolution.

ADOPTED: July 18, 2012
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director

NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

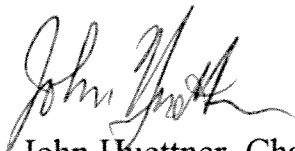
WHEREAS, all residents of New Haven are members of our society and the benefits and/or lack thereof, provides a structure that allows rich and poor; diverse populations; housed and persons who are homeless to co-exist and promote well-being among all; and,

WHEREAS, the New Haven Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and the follow-up Implementation Plan, first and primary goal is to increase the number of new additional affordable and supportive housing units; and second, to increase and promote preventive services to serve the needs of those who are homeless; and,

WHEREAS, enabling those who are homeless to confront their issues and to move into temporary shelter and, then into permanent affordable and supportive housing settings, has been a long term goal of the Commission; and,

WHEREAS, homelessness has within our lifetime, spread to all demographic and economic groups; a commitment to reduce or eliminate the causes and the diversity found in homelessness, should be a societal priority;

THEREFORE, THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AT ITS' JUNE 14, 2012 REGULAR MEETING, STRONGLY REAFFIRMS ITS' SUPPORT FOR THE ABOVE, AND RECOMMENDS THAT ANY POLICY OR REQUEST FOR A DECISION TO ENABLE THOSE WHO ARE HOMELESS TO PERMANENTLY ESTABLISH LIVING ENVIRONMENTS IN OUTSIDE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LANDS, DEFEATS ALL ATTEMPTS TO PROMOTE POSITIVE MOVEMENT TOWARDS INDIVIDUAL SELF WORTH AND BETTERMENT, AND SHOULD BE DENIED.



John Huettner, Chair

City of New Haven Homeless Advisory Commission

June 15, 2012