

**NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT**

**RE:** GRAND AVENUE and ARTIZAN STREET (Corner), Designation as  
"Rafael A. Melendez Corner" (Alderman Smart).  
**REPORT:** 1469-12  
**ADVICE:** Approval

**BACKGROUND**

Alderman Michael Smart, 8th Ward, has proposed that the corner of Grand Avenue and Artizan Street be named to honor Rafael A. Melendez, a pioneer and longtime leader of the Hispanic community who has made significant contributions to the City in many capacities.

Mr. Melendez who has lived on Artizan Street since the late 1960s, was the first candidate of Hispanic descent to take and pass the entrance exam to become part of the New Haven Police Department, followed by a 32 year career with the City's Department of Public Works. Alder Smart's submission letter notes "In addition Rafael led the way in Hispanic print, radio and television media, founded local Hispanic baseball and softball leagues, played an active role in a variety of Puerto Rican and Hispanic civic and social clubs, and has received numerous awards in recognition of his many contributions and service to the community. He has been a groundbreaking influence in many areas of New Haven's political and civic life, notably playing a leading part since 1956 in helping to organize Hispanic voting registration drives."

**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

Street corners may be named in accord with Section 18-2 of the Code of Ordinances where a procedure is defined, including submission of a site plan showing location of all structures and street features, a plan for the sign drawn to scale, a petition of at least 250 city resident signatures (of which 2/3 must be neighborhood residents), and a fee paid (\$250).


Commission staff observes that there are 359 signatures on the petition supporting the designation of the corner of Grand and Artizan as "Rafael A. Melendez Corner" and that at least two-thirds of the signatures appear to be of neighborhood residents. Staff believes this is sufficient to comply with Section 18-2 of the Code of Ordinances. The Commission is not aware if the required fee of \$250 has been paid to cover costs for creation and installation of the sign.

The Commission believes it is fully appropriate to name the corner in the Wooster Square neighborhood after this devoted citizen. The involved parties should work with the Department of Traffic, Transportation and Parking (TTP) on a site plan and wording for the sign which should easily fit on a standard sign block. Since TTP is responsible for creating, installing and maintaining such signs, it is important that a final design is developed in consultation with TTP.

**ADVICE**

Approval with Department of Traffic, Transportation and Parking to approve final sign design, location and installation.

**ADOPTED:** September 18, 2012  
Edward Mattison  
Chair

**ATTEST:**   
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA  
Executive Director