

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: HOWARD AVENUE and SEA STREET, Authorization for installation of two signs in the public right of way denoting entry to City Point Historic District (Alderwoman Colon).
REPORT: 1436-11
ADVICE: Approval with Conditions

BACKGROUND

Alderwoman Dolores Colon of the 6th Ward has petitioned her colleagues to authorize placement of two signs at entry points to the City Point Historic District. When signs are placed on City land, Board of Aldermen approval is required. According to Alderwoman Colon, the idea of erecting signs to note the Historic District has been in the planning stages for a while now. One sign is proposed to be within the tree belt on the south side of Sea Street, just to the east of the entry drive to Harbour Close Condominiums. The second sign is proposed to be in the tree belt on the west side of Howard Avenue in front of the property at #108 Howard, south of the Howard Avenue Bridge over I-95.

In each case the total height of the sign including the post is 9'-7" above ground level. The sign portion is oval in nature and will be mounted on a 6" square wooden post 7'0" in height. The sign itself will be metal or wood and will be 3'-4" in length and 2'-7" in height. Installation details are not yet finalized.

As presented the sign reads "**CITY POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**" with an image of a two-masted schooner under full sail. Across the bottom in smaller print it reads "IMO JUDGE AND MRS. ARTHUR HEALEY". According to Alderwoman Colon, the signs are to be erected in honor of Judge Arthur Healey whose family has agreed to cover the expenses for the signs.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Board of Aldermen controls encroachments on the public right-of-way under the general authority of Section 49 of the Charter and Section 15-2 of the Code or Ordinances. The Commission advises the Board in considering proposals for appurtenances over City property, and looks at suitability of design, scale, durability of product and its supports, quality of construction materials, and height above the sidewalk or street in the light of potential vandalism or damage by vehicles.

The signs appear in good taste, to be of good design and will be constructed of durable materials. Their location in the tree belt will need to be such that trucks cannot hit them if passing close to the curb. Their height appears to be satisfactory as it relates to pedestrians passing by on the sidewalk side. The location within a Local Historic District will require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic District Commission which will likely require more detailed information on materials, how the sign will be mounted in the ground, and wording. The sign locations are also within the City Point National Register Historic District.

The City requires an indemnity agreement where the City is held harmless from damages. A public liability insurance certificate acceptable to the City's Corporation Counsel is required.


The Commission recommends the wording of the sign be adjusted to state on one side "Entering City Point Historic District" and on the reverse side "Leaving City Point Historic District".

ADVICE

The City Plan Commission recommends approval of the proposed signs as shown in the submitted plans with the following conditions:

1. Placement of signs within the local Historic District requires a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic District Commission.
2. A **current** and continuous public liability certificate of insurance, acceptable to the City's Corporation Counsel, shall be maintained for the sign.
3. The City reserves the right to revoke the privilege for the signs if hazardous to pedestrians or motorists or not maintained in good repair and clean condition, or the Certificate of Liability Insurance lapses.

ADOPTED: January 20, 2010
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director

