

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **CONSOLIDATED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FY 2010-2011 AND THE DRAFT FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN FY 2010-2014** including proposed activities to be funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) community under the provisions of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended (PL 93-383); the Cranston Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 as amended (PL 101-625); the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2000 (PL 106-400); the Aids Housing Opportunity Act (PL 102-550); hereafter referred to as "housing and community development programs" and for activities to be funded by program income and/or reprogramming funds from prior grant years (Mayor DeStefano).

REPORT: 1437-18

ADVICE: Approval of Plan Goals and Objectives

BACKGROUND

As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Mayor is presenting for Aldermanic approval his recommended Consolidated Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan ("Annual Action Plan") for FY 2010-2011 and the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan ("Five Year Consolidated Plan") for FY 2010-2014. The Annual Action Plan includes proposed activities to be funded by the following federal programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG). Recommendations adhere to the guidelines, objectives and procedures set forth in the City's local Citizen Participation Plan and the draft Five Year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Strategy and Plan for 2010 through 2014.

HUD requires the submission of a planning document incorporating housing and non-housing community development strategies in a consolidated plan to be prepared in accordance with the process prescribed in 24CFR Part 91. The draft Five Year Consolidated Plan submitted includes a description of the community participation process, a needs analysis, and objectives and priorities for the five year strategy period. The preparation of the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan will be an on-going process and will continue to be the result of an intensive coordination, outreach, and consultation process including involvement by City departments and agencies, public service providers, Housing Authority personnel, housing providers, and persons from various agencies and organizations representing the homeless, special needs individuals and low/moderate income residents. The input for the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan will be compiled into a final draft to be approved by the Board of Aldermen ("Board") and submitted to HUD no later than May 15, 2010.

The Annual Action Plan submitted to the Board by the Mayor, along with FY 2010-2011 budget recommendations, contains activities to be funded by funds reprogrammed and/or program income from prior years' Community Development Block Grant activities. Prior to submission of this Plan to HUD, the Mayor and other public officials have heard citizen views of housing and community development needs. In the recent past, a Citizen Participation Plan along with information and data regarding the activities the City will undertake and carry out during the coming year with the financial assistance received from HUD was also presented to the Board and approved.

The Annual Action Plan has been on file at the office of the City/Town Clerk, 200 Orange Street, for at least thirty-five days for the purpose of public inspection and copies of the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan have also been made available to the public. In February, March, and April 2010, the Board of Aldermen acting through the joint committee on Community Development and Human Resources will hold public hearings pursuant to notices published in accordance with Public Act no. 75-443. During this time, the views of the public with respect to the strategies, objectives, and community development activities proposed in the Annual Action Plan will be communicated to the Board.

The Board will either receive written comments on the Annual Action Plan from the New Haven City Plan Commission, the New Haven Housing Authority, the LCI Loan Advisory Committee, the New Haven Development Commission, or, has allowed such agencies thirty days to review such plans. The Board has also received or has provided the opportunity for written communications from various City officials and members of the general public regarding this Plan.

The Board is cognizant of the conditions imposed upon the Mayor and the City with respect to undertaking and carrying out community development activities under the provisions of the Housing and Community Development programs and Public Act no. 75-443. It is necessary that the Board take appropriate official action respecting the City's Annual Action Plan statement of activities and use of funds, which forms part of the application to the Department of Housing and Community Development programs. Due to possible delays by the federal government regarding grant funding applications, retroactive agreements may be required in order to cover services for the entire current grant year.

The Mayor's proposed budget for FY 2010-2011 reflects anticipated federal revenues available for each program. The national budget for these programs is subject to change, pending Congressional authorization and approval by the President. The totals requested in each category are as follows: CDBG: \$4,555,669; HOME: \$1,947,553; ESG: \$162,368; and HOPWA: \$993,713.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

As the Mayor notes in his submission letter, the City will meet the challenge of providing services and programs to its residents while struggling to balance its financial resources as the country faces one of its most difficult and trying economic times. It is clear that the climate of the community has been affected this year by rising unemployment rates, increase in housing foreclosures, business closures, and job layoffs.

The Commission by custom does not undertake a line-by-line review of the Consolidated Plan. However, certain aspects of the budget and Plan are of particular interest to the Commission as they advance the overall efforts of sound land use planning, environmental protection, neighborhood revitalization and economic development.

The recommended FY 2010-2011 Annual Action Plan continues to promote neighborhood stability; provide programs for individuals to help achieve a better quality of life, and support New Haven's long range community development efforts. Programs and services in the Annual Action Plan include providing affordable housing opportunities on a variety of configurations, improved public facilities, safe parks, and public spaces. Recommendations also ensure the availability of needed public services and supportive programs for all residents, with priority given to the support of special needs populations and homeless services, including job training and youth programs. Implementation of the proposed Plan will address gaps in critically needed services as identified within the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan.

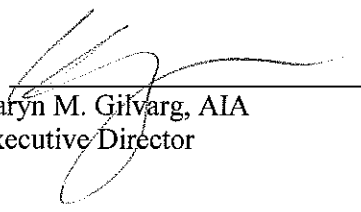
Of note, the Commission favors continued development of the Comprehensive Plan. The next update to the Comprehensive Plan as required by State mandates is 2013. In the coming year, City Plan proposes to work on a number of projects/initiatives in support of the plan including data collection, zoning revisions, and neighborhood planning and revitalization. Specific activities will include the Route 34 Medical District Plan, an environmental program which will result in better integrated land use and an environmental decision making process, and waterfront strategic planning. In addition, planning for the 2010 Census is also underway. The Census is administered by the federal government with significant local support. City Plan participates in this process by reviewing maps for accuracy and providing updates with new streets, housing developments, and utility data. Since the Census affects a number of entitlement programs, City Plan is engaging the academic community to ensure a complete and accurate count of the city's population.

Over the next several months, the Office of Budget and Finance will review the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan and provide feedback. Efforts will be made to ensure that the planning process is in accord with the Citizen Participation Plan and also to ensure that the draft Plan reflects City's current market conditions and describes the needs and strategies accordingly.

ADVICE:

The Commission approves the goals and objectives of the consolidated Annual Action Plan 2010-2011 and the Draft Consolidated Plan 2010-2014 without reference to particular amounts.

ADOPTED: February 17, 2010
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director