

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER** authorizing the Mayor of the City of New Haven to apply for and accept the Community Partnership Initiative Grant award from United Illuminating to increase participation in energy efficiency improvement programs.

Submitted by: Steven Winter, Executive Director of Climate and Sustainability

REPORT: 1629-13

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

The City of New Haven, in partnership with Neighborhood Housing Services, is requesting authorization to apply for and accept funding from the United Illuminating Community Partnership Initiative Program grant program. The grant would fund an outreach campaign to increase enrollment in Connecticut's Home Energy Solutions energy efficiency improvement program.

Home Energy Solutions begins with an energy audit, air sealing, and weatherization, after which participants may be eligible for subsidized deep efficiency improvements such as insulation and window upgrades. Once efficiency improvements have been implemented, residents are well-positioned to benefit from the installation of high efficiency electric heat pumps, which can both heat the home in the winter and cool the home in the summer.

Special focus will be placed on reaching residents in DEEP-designated environmental justice census tracts in West Rock/West Hills, Newhallville, Dixwell, the Hill, Fair Haven, and the Annex neighborhoods. The campaign plans to reach residents through participation in neighborhood events and meetings, public advertising and announcements, door-to-door canvassing, outreach to faith-based organizations, and referrals from activities of City departments such as the Fair Rent Commission and Health Department programs related to housing. Residential energy efficiency referrals will be made to NHS' I Heart My Home energy concierge program, which guides residents through maximizing their benefits in the Home Energy Solutions program.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with Title I, Article XIII, Section 2(A) of the New Haven Code of Ordinances states, **"Every Ordinance or Resolution of the Board of Alders relating to the location and use of any street, bridge, boulevard, esplanade, square, park, playground, playfield, aviation field, parking space, public building, the facilities or terminals of any public utility, or the establishment or change in the boundaries of or regulations concerning zoning, shall be at once referred to the City Planning Commission and final action shall not be taken on any such Ordinance or Resolution until the commission shall have reported thereon, provided that the Board of Alders may establish by ordinance a period of not less than sixty (60) Days within which the commission shall file its report with the City Clerk and if no report is filed within such period the approval of the commission shall be presumed."** Accordingly, the Board of Alders seeks guidance regarding the proposed amendment.

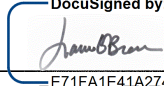
The Board of Alder seeks guidance as to whether the proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

ADVICE

The proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan because it:

- Meets the Vision 2025 goal to expand existing energy efficiency programs and seek funding for new programs
- Meets the Vision 2025 goal of continued commitment to sustainable environmental policy and a systematic approach to energy efficiency and development of renewable energy resources to further improve air quality and ensure a high-quality environment.

ADOPTED: March 15, 2023
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST:  March 20, 2023 | 2:15 PM EDT
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Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department