

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the Mayor of the City of New Haven to submit an application to the United States Department of Agriculture, in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00 for a period of one year for the Community Services Administration Food System Division to develop with partners a pilot community composting system. (Submitted by: Latha Swamy, Director of Food System Policy)

REPORT: 1570-04
ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Community Services Administration, Food System Policy Division (FSPD) is preparing a grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services for up to \$90,000 for a period of one year to develop with partners a pilot community composting system.

As landfills are leading contributors of groundwater pollution, and GHG emissions, residential and commercial composting is a simple way for cities to divert waste from landfills. Moreover, composting is now often cheaper than sending waste to garbage dumps. Composting can also be used as a tool to generate clean energy by harnessing the natural gasses released from compost and landfills and to power city transportation fleets. The composting material is used to enrich soil, lay fertile ground for turf or gardens, and even city departments can utilize the resource for projects ranging from erosion control to wetland restoration.

Potential funding from the USDA's Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) Project would provide the FSPD with the unique opportunity to lay the groundwork to identify, research, and pilot the policy and program changes necessary to implement a municipal composting system. This project will be performed in collaboration with key partner organizations and community members, to ensure that these changes meet the community's needs.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Pursuing funding opportunities to capture a percentage of the organic waste from the home waste stream to make high quality compost to support growing food, create jobs, save municipal funds, and reduce environmental pollution complies with the City's Comprehensive Plan:

New Haven Vision 2025, Sections VII-12, V-23:

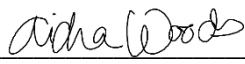
"...the City should work to increase the recycling rate and reduce the amount of waste sent to incinerators and landfills. This will require a two-part strategy: first, through better waste management, including recycling and composting and second, through the reduction of the amount of waste that is generated in the first place. Source reduction is the fastest, easiest, and most cost-effective means of minimizing the environmental impact of waste." (VII-12)

"Encourage connections between food processing and food production operations and local composting operations (or other waste minimization technologies) to reduce long-distance transport of food waste" (V-23)

ADVICE

The Commission recommends approval.

ADOPTED: June 17, 2020
Ed Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Aicha Woods
Executive Director, City Plan Department