

**NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT**

**RE:** **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the Mayor to apply for, execute, acknowledge, implement and deliver any and all documents as may be considered necessary or appropriate for the State Historic Preservation Offices Grant: Survey and Planning grant. (Submitted by: Aicha Woods, Executive Director of City Plan)

**REPORT:** **1573-10**

**ADVICE:** **Approve**

**BACKGROUND**

The City Plan Department applied to the State Historic Preservation Office for a Survey and Planning grant of \$20,000. The goal of the grant is to produce plans to reuse the historic Bigelow complex at 198 River Street, which is currently in deteriorating physical conditions, and suffered additional damage in the last tropical storm.

The process will consist of hiring a consultant to conduct an economic feasibility study on potential reuse models, as well as engaging local stakeholders in assessing needs and desires for the parcel. The consultant will also consider creative ways of planning a flood-resilient reuse for lower floors, given the site's location within the 100-year floodplain. The deliverable of this project is guidelines for the reuse of the historic Bigelow complex at 198 River Street and a set of economic tools that will make it feasible for developers to redevelop the site.

**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

The City of New Haven Comprehensive Plan **New Haven Vision 2025** refers to the River Street Municipal Development Plan (2002) and recommends:


“[...] to promote the development of vacant sites along River Street [...] to promote historic preservation and rehabilitation of residential properties; to enhance public access to the river; and to implement coastal resiliency measures” **Sec. IV-26**

Perusing funding opportunities to fund an economic feasibility study on potential reuse models for the Bigelow Complex at 198 River St. complies with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

**ADVICE**

The Commission finds the Order in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

**ADOPTED:** September 16, 2020  
Ed Mattison  
Chair

**ATTEST:**   
Aicha Woods  
Executive Director, City Plan Department