

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 Preservation Connecticut grant: Vibrant Communities Initiative. (Submitted by: Aicha Woods, Executive Director of City Plan)

REPORT: **1573-11**

ADVICE: **Approve**

BACKGROUND

The City Plan Department applied to Preservation Connecticut for a Vibrant Communities Initiative grant of \$27,000. This project aims to revitalize the former Horace H. Strong School building at 69 Grand Avenue in Fair Haven. The funds would be used to hire a consultant firm to conduct a market analysis and a feasibility study to identify uses for the building that are both economically feasible and in line with the community's goals. The study will be based on an ongoing pre-development process involving community stakeholders and representatives from various City departments. This process will be guided by a steering committee of community residents, business and nonprofit leaders, professionals, city staff, and other stakeholders.

The new uses should convert the vacant building into a financial and cultural anchor for the surrounding area, attracting commerce and building community. Another goal is to develop a reuse model that can be applied to other vacant historic buildings in New Haven in similar conditions, such as the Goffe Street Armory.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The City of New Haven Comprehensive Plan **New Haven Vision 2025** calls to:


“Continue to focus on revitalization efforts on Grand Avenue to promote vibrancy and strengthen local economy within this commercial corridor.” **Sec. IV-26**

Perusing funding opportunities to fund a feasibility study to determine uses for former Horace H. Strong School building at 69 Grand Avenue 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