

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 CT Department of Agriculture for up to \$75,000 over a three-year period from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP).
(Submitted by: Latha Swamy, Director of Food System Policy)

REPORT: 1583-12
ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The Community Services Administration Food System Policy Division (FSPD) would like to address specialty crop access and competitiveness by engaging with local partners to provide an urban agricultural education workshop series in parallel with and complementary to the FSPD's development of New Haven's first Urban Agriculture Master Plan. Also, in collaboration with local organizational and business stakeholders the FSPD will connect with both emerging and established food entrepreneurs and culinarians to engage them in (hyper)local urban agricultural efforts. Moreover, in order to better support urban growers - especially Black, Brown, low-income, new, beginning, and otherwise socially disadvantaged farmers - to start or further expand their pursuit of urban specialty crop cultivation, the FSPD, in partnership neighborhood residents and other City agencies such as the public library system, will establish community-led, publicly-accessible seed libraries of culturally-relevant crops throughout New Haven.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Pursuing funding opportunities to update land use and other City policies and develop programs based on best practices to promote urban agriculture and support local food systems complies with the City's Comprehensive Plan:

New Haven Vision 2025:


"Connect residents to healthy food by expressly permitting community gardens in all residential zones where they can build a sense of neighborhood identity" (III-19)

"Grow general quality of life and health of the residents in all neighborhoods by promoting access to healthy food and increasing access to open spaces/recreational areas through improved and well-connected transportation network." (III-20)

ADVICE

The Commission recommends approval.

ADOPTED: April 21, 2021
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST: 
Aicha Woods
Executive Director, City Plan Department