

## NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

**RE: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the Mayor of the City of New Haven to submit a proposal to accept any award from the Kendall Foundation, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 over a period of two years, for the Food System Policy Division to identify, research, and develop a series of plans and activities that will create an enabling environment for food entrepreneurship and values-based institutional food procurement and in which all residents will equitably benefit from the positive environmental, health, and socioeconomic outcomes of a just and sustainable food system. (Submitted by: Latha Swamy, Director of Food System Policy)

**REPORT:** 1583-14  
**ADVICE:** Approval

### BACKGROUND

Food entrepreneurship plays a unique and vital role in New Haven's food ecosystem. The array of entrepreneurial pathways in New Haven - ranging from chefs, caterers, food truck operators, and bakers, to value-added producers and packaged food and beverage makers - makes New Haven both a launchpad and landing area to grow and settle all types of food-based businesses. By providing entrepreneurs with the right regulatory, information, and financial support, the Food System Policy Division (FSPD) can help strengthen the local food system and build community prosperity, in turn creating a more vibrant community. Supporting entrepreneurship across the spectrum can serve as one tool to achieve a wide variety of community impact goals, from job creation to workforce training, healthy food access to nutrition education, farm viability to localizing the food economy, and from neighborhood revitalization to tourism.

### 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)

“Community survey responses and data findings indicate that connecting residents to local jobs, enhancing the skills of local workforce to meet the requirements of current and potential employers, and encouraging and sustaining local entrepreneurs are key economic development priorities for the next decade.” (VI-13)

### ADVICE

The Commission recommends approval.

**ADOPTED:** April 21, 2021  
Leslie Radcliffe  
Chair

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