

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Approving A Five (5) Year Lease Agreements By And Between The City of New Haven And Neighborhood RX, Inc. For A Green Space At 23 Shepard Street For \$1.00 Per Year (Submitted by: Arlevia Samuel, Acting Executive Director, Livable City Initiative)

REPORT: 1593-05

ADVICE: Approve.

BACKGROUND

This request is to consider the continued use of 23 Shepard Street as public green space. A neighborhood-based group (Neighborhood RX) in the Newhallville neighborhood maintains this community green space for aesthetic and beautification purposes. Currently, the site receives investment from dedicated citizens in terms of volunteered time and labor.

The City's Livable City Initiative encourages community gardening in densely populated neighborhoods because this infrastructure beautifies the neighborhood, builds strong neighborhood networks, fosters intergenerational socialization, provides education, encourages urban agriculture and healthy eating while preserving open space. The City's Livable City Initiative ventures to partner with grassroots organizations to maintain stewardship of parcels such as this site.

Accordingly, the City's Livable City Initiative seeks a five (5) year lease agreement with Neighborhood RX in Newhallville for \$1.00 per year to preserve the open space/community garden located at 23 Shepard Street.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with Title I, Article XIII, Section 2(A) of the New Haven Code of Ordinances states, **"Every Ordinance or Resolution of the Board of Alders relating to the location and use of any street, bridge, boulevard, esplanade, square, [public green,] park, playground, playfield, aviation field, parking space, public building, the facilities or terminals of any public utility, or the establishment or change in the boundaries of or regulations concerning zoning, shall be at once referred to the City Planning Commission and final action shall not be taken on any such Ordinance or Resolution until the commission shall have reported thereon, provided that the Board of Alders may establish by ordinance a period of not less than sixty (60) Days within which the commission shall file its report with the City Clerk and if no report is filed within such period the approval of the commission shall be presumed."** Accordingly, the Board of Alders seeks guidance regarding the proposal.

The Board of Alder seeks guidance as to:

- Whether the proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- The City's Comprehensive Plan states, **"Encourage the creation of safe open space opportunities and community gardens."**

ADVICE

The proposal is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan because it:

- Fosters a greater "sense of place" and neighborhood pride.
- Encourages healthy eating habits.
- Beautifies the community.
- Fosters intergenerational socialization.
- Increases the City's open space.
- Encourages urban farming.
- Provides education.

ADOPTED: October 6, 2021

Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST: __



Aicha Woods
Executive Director, City Plan Department