

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: Extension of **ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**, Encouraging Use of Hybrid Technology by Granting Free on-Street Parking to Hybrid Vehicles and Other Manufacturer Authorized Alternative Fuel Vehicles Registered in the City of New Haven (Alders Jolly, Addonizio, King, and Shah).
REPORT: 1391-39
ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Alderspersons Jolly, Addonizio, Smart, King and Shah propose to amend and extend a city ordinance which encourages the use of hybrid vehicle technology by granting free on-street parking in the City to hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles registered in New Haven. The current ordinance expired on June 6, 2006. This amendment would be for three-years and add a 35-mile-per-hour threshold for permit eligibility.

The ordinance permits free on-street parking on all City streets to hybrid vehicles and other manufacturer authorized alternative fuel vehicles registered in New Haven when owners do not owe back taxes or parking tickets. The Department of Traffic and Parking issues owners a non-transferable pass, to be prominently displayed in the vehicle, either on the dashboard or hung from the rear view mirror. The pass enables the owner to park on City streets for no charge, provided the vehicle is parked in legal parking spaces and is in compliance with all posted parking restrictions. Passes would be good for a year and would expire on the date the ordinance takes effect.

The Commission has supported the City's efforts in the past towards a clean air initiative. The previous ordinance was a valid incentive to New Haven residents to consider purchase of a hybrid vehicle, particularly when coupled with escalating gasoline fuel costs. The initial 100 decals ordered for hybrid drivers ran out at the beginning of May. Because of the success this ordinance has experienced in the past year the Commission recommends the extension of this program for an additional three years.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The City has been aggressive in taking the lead in initiatives to reduce air pollutants from mobile and other sources which have contributed to the fact that New Haven residents suffer from one of the highest asthma rates in Connecticut, and in some neighborhoods, the highest in the nation. As part of the New Haven Clean Cities Initiative formed in 1995, the Board of Aldermen approved agreements in 1997, which fielded a demonstration fleet of alternatively fueled vehicles, served by a new compressed gas fueling station. The City has since switched to ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel in all of its diesel school buses and trucks. In May 2003 the Board of Aldermen passed a resolution supporting the use of renewable energy, including a goal of making at least 20% of its energy purchases from renewable energy sources (such as wind and solar energy) by the year 2010. In 2004 the Aldermen passed a Resolution supporting the adoption of Connecticut SB 119, later adopted by the State legislature, which required Connecticut to adopt and implement California's Low Emission Vehicle II Program. Adopting California's program would 1) require that new cars sold in Connecticut conform to California's tailpipe emission standards (more stringent than federal standards), 2) require manufacturers to continue putting ultra-clean gasoline and hybrid-electric cars on Connecticut's roads, and 3) encourage manufacturers to continue research into zero-emission, non-polluting technologies such as fuel cells, and put cars using those technologies on Connecticut's roads. These standards would apply to motor vehicles with model year 2007 and later.

ADVICE

Approval.

ADOPTED: June 21, 2006
Patricia A. King
Chair

ATTEST: _____
Michael Piscitelli, AICP
Asst. Director, Comprehensive Planning

