

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
JUSTIN ELICKER, MAYOR



PREPARED COMMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN

**RE: HEARING ON THE DRAFT 2018-2023 CONSERVATION &
DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: THE PLAN FOR CONNECTICUT**

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Steve Cassano, the Honorable Cristin McCarthy Vahey, members of the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development, my name is Keith Lawrence and I am Assistant Director of Comprehensive Planning for the City of New Haven. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the City concerning the above referenced draft plan, which is quite compatible with our City of New Haven Comprehensive Plan -- New Haven Vision 2025.

We are pleased that the draft C&D Plan embraces regional and multidisciplinary planning perspectives, recognizing that local growth is tied to market, demographic and other dynamics beyond municipal boundaries. We also commend it for seeking to balance growth and preservation in proportions like those New Haven residents recommended for Vision 2025. The C&D Plan's guiding Growth Management Principles and proposed state agency policies map closely on to the "Build, Connect, Preserve. Adapt and Grow" planning themes organizing New Haven's own plans for creating a sustainable, healthy and vibrant city over the next decade.

So, for example, we look forward, to leveraging state incentives for developing multifamily housing, mixed use properties and transit-oriented development as we work to expand New Haven's stocks of affordable housing and boost its advanced manufacturing and construction sectors. State support is critical to the success of local efforts to develop higher density, mixed-income housing located close to amenities and job opportunities, and it is encouraging see such commitment in this draft Plan. Given that

the need for affordable housing is regional in nature, the City further encourages you to include specific performance targets which would stimulate the construction of affordable housing across the region.

This draft addresses a specific change we requested in the current C&D Plan: that a critical location in New Haven's Hill neighborhood be re-designated as a development area to reinforce opportunities for transit-oriented development and job growth envisioned by our Hill to Downtown Community Plan.

Thank you for making that important change on the Locational Guide Map.

Finally, we value the continued emphasis on inclusivity and flexibility reflected in this document.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

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City of New Haven