



## **2021-22 Charter Revision Committee – Board of Representatives**

Bradley Bewkes, Co-Chair

Jeff Curtis, Co-Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** This meeting was held remotely.

The 2021-22 Charter Committee of the Board of Representatives met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Bewkes and Curtis, and Committee Member Reps. Ley, Matheny, Pollack, Shaw, Sherwood, and Stella. Excused was Committee Member Rep. Boeger. Also present were Reps. Campbell, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Goldberg, Mays, Miller, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Summerville, and Weinberg; Attorney Mednick; and Tom Lombardo, Chair, 19<sup>th</sup> Charter Commission.

Co-Chair Bewkes called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. [CR31.012](#)      2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC HEARING; Draft Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Charter Revision Commission.      **Public Hearing Held**  
07/03/23 – Submitted by Rep. Bewkes

Co-Chair Bewkes opened the public hearing. The following members of the public spoke: Mike Papa, Chris Dawson, Jerry Silber, David Adams, Zachary Oberholzer, Paul Arvoy, Paula Waldman, Barry Michelson, Dave Avery, Sean, Kathy Kligler, and Kieran Edmondson. The [attached statements](#) were submitted in advance of the meeting by members of the public in lieu of speaking. There being no further members of the public wishing to speak. The public hearing was closed.

2. [CR31.009](#)      RESOLUTION; Concerning Recommendations for Changes to the Draft Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Charter Revision Commission      **Approved, as amended, 8-0-0**  
06/07/23 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis and Bewkes

Co-Chair Bewkes noted that members of the Board had previously provided their recommended changes to the proposed draft report, which were combined into a [list of recommendations](#). The list, which is attached, was reviewed by Attorney Mednick as follows. [Items highlighted in yellow are precluded by Public Act 23-205, §158 or other law. Items highlighted in green may be precluded by Public Act 23-205, §158 or present other legal obstacles and need to be reviewed by the attorneys.

Attorney Mednick noted that Attorney Roberts had reviewed whether or not a definition of landowner would be appropriate anywhere else in the charter, and determined that it is not used outside of the petition process and so should not be included in the Charter given Public Act 23-205, §158.

A motion to accept into the resolution all of the new recommendations other than those highlighted in yellow in the list of recommendations, as listed below, and to remove the recommendation from last week regarding the definition of landowner was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Bewkes, Curtis, Ley, Matheny, Pollack, Shaw,

Sherwood, and Stella in favor).

<b><u>Proposed Charter Section</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
<b>Secs. C1-70-3; C1-80-1; C6-210-1, et seq.</b>	Changing the Board of ethics from being appointed by the mayor and the board of representatives to become elected officials by the people. Their terms should run like the mayor and board of representatives.
<b>Sec. C6-40-1</b>	Include consideration of protecting the state's historic, tribal, cultural and environmental resources among the duties of the Zoning Board
	Recommend postponing vote on charter revision until 2024.
	The BoR President may only nominate candidates for all committee memberships, subject to majority vote by the full BoR.
	Reduce the size of the BoR from 40 to 20 representatives with only one representative from each district.
	What is the magnitude of change that the charter revision is willing to make at the request of the City of Stamford Legal counsel?
<b>Sec. C8-30-10(b)(4)</b>	Delete the requirement for a joint public hearing in its entirety. Because: 1. Both boards have ample opportunity for the public to participate and the public has made its views known quite well on various mid-year capital items. The turf fields at Stamford High is an example - the parents used our existing means of public participation to make their views well known. 2. There's only one joint public hearing between the two boards now, during budget season. They're extraordinarily difficult to schedule and the revised charter already requires two more.
<b>Sec. C8-20-9(b)</b>	Charter revisions propose to remove the 5% cap on the Rainy Day Fund. This cap should stay in place. The City has many reserve funds besides the Rainy Day Fund. The school construction fund is a prominent example. Through long practice and custom, monies put into the Rainy Day Fund are effectively untouchable. Conversely, monies put into other reserve funds eventually gets spent, and hence why we should cap the Rainy Day Fund. The ratings agencies look at our total reserves, not just the Rainy Day Fund.
	Change the budget process from annual to biennial Add a Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion ("DEI") and create a Cabinet-level Director of DEI Change the swearing-in date for incoming Mayors from early December to early January
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	Change the swearing-in date for incoming Mayors from early December to early January
	Separate the Office of Operations' regulatory functions from its operational functions
	Do not make any changes in the mayoral appointments process

	Create a seven-person Pension Fund Management Board (1 each from BOR, BOF, Director of Administration, and 4 mayoral appointees), with each Pension Board having 1 ex officio member
	Reduce the size of the Board of Representatives from 40 members representing 20 districts to 26 members representing 13 districts
	Simplify the Land Use permitting process by eliminating administrative silos
	Require leaders of professional departments (e.g., Engineering) to have administrative experience as well as technical experience
	Create a Cabinet-level Director of Operations Management position to review and update each department's practices and procedures
<b>Sec. C3-10-4</b>	In the event the Mayor is or intends to be absent from the City for a period of forty-eight (48) hours or more, the Mayor shall give written notice to that effect to the President and/or Clerk of the Board of Representatives and/or the Town Clerk. In the event of absence from the City or temporary disability of the Mayor, the President of the Board of Representatives, <del>or in the President's absence or disability, the Majority Leader, or Minority Leader, in that order, or if none of the foregoing shall have agreed to assume the duties of the Mayor.</del> such member as the Board of Representatives shall designate, shall exercise the power of the Mayor, except that until such absence or disability of the Mayor has continued for thirty (30) days, the Acting Mayor shall not have power to appoint or remove officers or employees. The <u>financial</u> compensation for the Acting Mayor shall be <del>determined by the Board of Representatives but shall in no case exceed in proportion the salary of the Mayor.</del> <u>half of the per diem rate of the Mayor's salary. If the time period is greater than a thirty {30} day period said compensation will be equal a per diem rate base on the Mayor's salary. Said compensation will begin on the first day the Acting Mayor's assumes the duties of the role, and end on the day when the Mayor returns to duty.</u>

A motion to approve the resolution as amended to include all of the above items was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Bewkes, Curtis, Ley, Matheny, Pollack, Shaw, Sherwood, and Stella in favor).

Co-Chair Bewkes adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bradley Bewkes, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).