

**From:** Stella, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:32:58 PM  
**To:** Lee, Benjamin  
**Subject:** New Haven Board of Ethics

Hi Ben,

I want to apologize for submitting this on the same day of our meeting. I've been extremely busy this month and lost the track of time.

Here are a few Ideas I would like to see changed or added to Stamford's Board of Ethics.

I looked into the New Haven's Board of Ethics.

**Changes for number 1 & 2 are listed in the New Haven Board of Ethics. I would like opportunity to discuss my reasoning behind these changes**

- 1) I would like to change probable cause to **reasonable cause**.
- 2) I think **section (e)** should be added to our complaint form.
- 3) People are more likely to make a plead due to the cost of fighting their allegation. (City or Union workers have paid attorneys)
- 4) The Ethics Board should be held liable if found a ruling/verdict was passed without cause. Police officer and courts are sued for those reasons.

No one is above the law.

**Sec. 125/8-9. - Board of Ethics—Procedures and administration.**

(4) Upon the request of any public official or municipal employee on a form prescribed by the board of ethics, the board of ethics shall:

a. Conduct an investigation to determine if there is **reasonable cause** to believe that any public official or municipal employee has violated the code of ethics;

**b. Conduct its investigation in such manner and upon such evidence as it deems appropriate;**

**c. Render its opinion as to the existence or lack of reasonable cause in writing;**

d. Upon a finding of reasonable cause, conduct a hearing, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board of ethics, in order to determine if in fact the official or employee has violated the code of ethics;

**e. Complaints shall be signed under penalty of false statement, as defined in Section 53a-157b of the Connecticut General Statutes, and shall set forth with specificity the factual allegations and their sources upon which the request is based;**

f. No complaint may be made under this section except within three (3) years next after the violation alleged in the complaint has been committed.

Thanks,  
Jeff

Rep. Jeffrey Stella (D-9)  
City of Stamford - [Board of Representatives](#)  
Chair, [Public Safety & Health Committee](#)  
Member, [Education Committee](#)  
Member, [Anti-Blight Committee](#)  
Tele: [203-978-3032](tel:203-978-3032)  
[JStella@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:JStella@StamfordCT.gov)