



Land Use-Urban Redevelopment Committee – Board of Representatives

Bradley Bewkes, Chair

Nina Sherwood, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Land Use/Urban Redevelopment Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Bewkes, Vice Chair Sherwood and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Campbell, de la Cruz, Florio, Grunberger, Matheny, Mays, Summerville and Tomas. Also present were Reps. Boeger, Morson and Sandford; Ted Jankowski, Director Public Safety, Health and Welfare; Dana Lee, Law Department; and Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief.

Chair Bewkes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
2. LU31.002	RESOLUTION; Recognizing Harvest Hill Lane with the Commemorative Name of Roosevelt Mitchell Crossing. 11/13/21 – Submitted by Rep. Sandford	Approved 11-0-0

The Committee first took up Item No. 2. Rep. Sandford explained that Mr. Mitchell was an icon in his neighborhood who moved to Stamford in 1957 and was a crossing guard for the last 17 years at Newfield Elementary School until he passed away. The neighbors want to honor him by giving the street an honorary name. Rep. Sandford stated that 2/3 of the owners had signed the petition.

A motion to approve Item No. 2, pending verification of the signatures on the petition, was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Bewkes, Sherwood, Adams, Campbell, de la Cruz, Florio, Grunberger, Matheny, Mays, Summerville and Tomas in favor).

1. LU31.001	REVIEW; Music and Noise Echoing through South End and District 1 Coming From The Village and other Developments in the South End. 11/01/21 - Submitted by Rep. Bewkes	Held 11-0-0
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Chair Bewkes stated that he put this item on the agenda in order to get an understanding of the complaints that have been received regarding outdoor music at several venues, what has been done in response by the city, the types of permits that are issued and how it relates to the noise ordinance. Next month, he would like to hear from the residents at a public hearing and the business owners as invitees.

Mr. Jankowski stated that during the period of May and June, the city received 36 complaints relating to noise, underage service and possible drug use. He put together a restaurant bar task force to address those concerns consisting of environmental inspectors with noise meters, fire marshals to address overcrowding, and the state liquor authority, which provides the state liquor license that permits entertainment. They focused on 13 locations, 6 of which were in the south

end. The task force inspected and enforce. Many of the locations were above the decibel limit and the task force worked with the owners to bring down the noise, including closing doors and windows. They have asked some owners to bring in acoustic experts to address the issues. The noise ordinance only has a \$90 fine, so it does not have much of an impact. Residents are concerned about outdoor music. Potentially the ordinance should be amended to increase the fine and permit public safety officers to shut down the source of the noise, if necessary. Most owners were compliant when asked.

Mr. Lee discussed potential changes to the ordinance. Since many owners complied, strengthening the enforcement provisions may be sufficient by increasing the fine and allowing the Health Department or public safety officers to shut down the noise would probably be sufficient. Any changes must be approved by the State. He will reach out to the state to see what they are permitting. The ordinance could also be amended to address repeat offenders.

Mr. Blessing stated that the Zoning Board doesn't generally regulate noise, but has included noise limitations which refer back to the noise ordinance as conditions of approval. Zoning enforcement tends to be slow and burdensome. Changing the ordinance would be a better solution.

Committee members continued to discuss this item with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- The City has purchased new meters which 3 members of the environmental inspection team are currently trained to use; all inspectors will be trained
- The police department is purchasing 2 new meters and all officers will be trained to use them
- Enforcement of the ordinance needs to be improved
- The majority of the continuing concerns relate to outdoor music
- The establishments were seeing more people coming in than usual post-Covid
- The readings taken were as required by the ordinance; the inspectors also went to the sites from which the complaints were made, but the ordinance requires measurements from the place where the sound is emitted
- The Zoning Enforcement Officer issues liquor licenses, which permit entertainment. An outdoor dining permit is also required for outdoor service and entertainment
- 2/3 of the establishments with outdoor entertainment did not have an outdoor permit and were required to get one
- Complaints that are ongoing should be made through FixIt Stamford under Health and Safety. One time complaints could be made to the police non-emergency line.
- The business will be invited next month

A motion to hold Item No. 1 with the intention to hear from businesses as invitees and to hold a public hearing to hear from residents was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Bewkes, Sherwood, Adams, Campbell, de la Cruz, Florio, Grunberger, Matheny, Mays, Summerville and Tomas in favor).

Chair Bewkes adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradley Bewkes, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).