

# *30<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES*

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## *CITY OF STAMFORD*

May 8, 2021

Board of Representatives:

For consideration by the Board of Representatives I have submitted an ordinance to establish an Appointments Commission to facilitate and clarify the appointments process to City boards and commissions for City residents.

In observance of the current appointment process for City Boards and Commissions, my belief is there are opportunities to make investments and improvements in the areas of recruitment, transparency, and equitable representation. As outlined in the draft ordinance, the establishment of this commission seeks to address these areas with a composition structure similar to the existing City boards and commissions.

Limitations in our current system include an overreliance on participation from the Democratic City Committee and Republican Town Committee, as it pertains to locating and recruiting volunteers. For example, this system provides no structure for Unaffiliated and Independent residents potentially seeking positions. Additionally, this current system offers minimal to no transparency related to the recruitment process nor does it offer visibility on the composition of boards and commissions, as it pertains to representation of various subgroups. The example I offer is the lack of visibility of the municipal district land use board and commissions members represent. Given the scope of the decisions made by these boards, I would argue an attempt at equitable representation is in the best interest of the city, or at least a considerable factor in the appointment process.

It is my belief this draft ordinance can provide a framework for a process that will engage new and talented volunteers as well as strengthen the public trust in the appointment process. I look forward to members, and ex-officio members, of the Legislative & Rules and Appointments Committees improving this ordinance with their thoughts and feedback.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Matthew Quinones  
President, Board of Representatives