



## **Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives**

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Lee and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Florio and Nabel. Also present were Reps. McMullen and Sherwood; Kathryn Emmett, Dana Lee and Amy LiVolsi, Law Department; Michael Moore, DSSD; and Jonathan Winkel, Stamford Partnership.

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">LR30.091</a>	APPROVAL; Amendment of the <a href="#">Rules of the Board</a> Section V.D.3 re: Filling of Vacancy for an Elected Office by Deletion of Last Sentence. 01/06/20 – Submitted by President Quinones	<b>HELD 6-0-0</b>

Committee members discussed the goal of this change – whether it is to permit members to vote “no” or to require approval by a majority of Board members. Members questioned whether someone should be able to vote “no” on an election, or whether the options should only be to vote for someone or not vote. Deleting this sentence might not change that requirement because of Robert’s Rules of Order. If the goal is to require majority approval of nominees, additional changes would need to be made to the language of the rules. President Quinones was invited to submit revised language to better accomplish the intended objective.

A motion to hold Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller and Zelinsky in favor).

2. <a href="#">LR30.088</a>	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Providing for the Regulation of Exterior Lighting in the City of Stamford. 10/29/19 – Submitted by Bureau Chief Blessing 11/19/19 – Held by Committee 5-0-0	<b>APPROVED, AS AMENDED, 6-0-0</b>
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Rep. Lion explained that this ordinance will give the Land Use boards a framework with which to evaluate items that come before them and also creates an enforcement mechanism.

Mr. Moore stated that the DSSD has two major comments on the proposed ordinance 1) the DSSD approves of the continued requirement for site plan review and 2) the DSSD sponsored lighting programs extend until mid-March, past the ordinance cut-off for seasonal displays.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Blessing concurred that this ordinance only applies to lighting on private property and would not apply to the DSSD lighting on public right-of-ways.

Committee members discussed allowing seasonal displays for other holidays, such as Halloween and whether the goal is to limit the length of seasonal displays or all displays in a given year.

A motion was made to amend §155-8.a.(2) as follows:

a. (2) Seasonal Lighting Displays: Lighting displays ~~from November 15 through January 30 of the following year~~ operated for a period not to exceed sixty (60) contiguous days for a given display or a total of 120 days in a given calendar year for all displays.

Said motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller and Zelinsky in favor).

Committee members discussed whether the ordinance contains or should contain exemptions for religious statuary lighting whether the statue is not part of the building façade. It was determined that no such exemption exists.

A motion was made to amend §155-8.m. as follows:

m. Flagpoles and Statuary. Flagpoles and statuary may be illuminated by one upwardly aimed Fully Shielded spotlight which shall not exceed 3,500 lumens. The Light Fixture shall be placed as close to the base of the flagpole or statuary as reasonably possible.

Said motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller and Zelinsky in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 2, as amended, for publication, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller and Zelinsky in favor).

3. [LR30.065](#) ORDINANCE for publication, Concerning the Use of Single-Use Plastic Straws and Stirrers by Food or Beverage Establishments. **APPROVED, AS AMENDED, 5-0-0**  
04/22/19 – Submitted by Reps. Jacobson, de la Cruz, Kolenberg, Stella, Cottrell and Zelinsky  
05/21/19 – Held by Committee 5-0-0  
06/18/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0  
07/23/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0  
08/20/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0  
09/17/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0  
10/22/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0  
11/12/19 – Held at Steering

Rep. Jacobson explained that he had submitted a revised draft of this ordinance with matches the Norwalk ordinance, banning plastic stirrers and changing the distribution of plastic straws to an “ask first” policy.

A motion to amend Item No. 3 to accept all of the changes proposed by Rep. Jacobson in the 12/16/19 draft was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller and Zelinsky in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 3, as amended, for publication, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion and Miller in favor).

4. [LR30.089](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances, Code of Ethics. **HELD 5-0-0**  
11/07/19 – Submitted by Rep. Stella  
11/19/19 – Held by Committee 5-0-0

Rep. Miller left the meeting for the discussion of this item. Committee members discussed whether this Item should be transferred to a special committee, given the amount of work involved in amending this ordinance. Committee members also discussed whether a higher threshold than a majority vote should be required to amend the ethics ordinance.

A motion to hold Item No. 4 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion and Zelinsky in favor).

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Lee, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).