



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th 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, Nabel and Zelinsky. Absent were Committee Member Reps. Coleman and Florio. Also present were Rep. McMullen; Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief, Dana Lee, Law Department; Mike Johnson, Sullivan & LaSane; and four members of the public: (See public hearing sign-in sheets for [LR30.065](#) and [LR30.088](#)).

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

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. LR30.088	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</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 01/21/20 – Approved by Committee, as amended, for publication 6-0-0	Approved 7-0-0

Chair Lee opened the public hearing. Mr. Hennessey distributed the [attached photograph](#) and spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. Mr. Latosh asked for clarification regarding shielded lights, cut-off fixtures and flood lights on residential properties. There being no other members of the public present wishing to speak, Chair Lee closed the public hearing.

Committee members discussed the proposed ordinance with Mr. Blessing. Mr. Blessing explained that shielded lighting is a light fixture that doesn't allow light above a horizontal plane. He further explained that whether a light is in violation of the ordinance depends on a variety of factors – not only the brightness of the light, but its intensity at the residential property line, and the intensity in relation to distance.

Chair Lee noted that the public will have a year to understand this ordinance, and that there will need to be a public education campaign.

A motion to approve this ordinance for final adoption was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

2. [LR30.065](#) ORDINANCE for public hearing and final adoption, **Approved 7-0-0**
Concerning the Use of Single-Use Plastic Straws and
Stirrers by Food or Beverage Establishments.
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
01/21/20 – Approved by Committee, as amended, for
publication 5-0-0

Chair Lee opened the public hearing. Ms. Blum spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. There being no other members of the public present wishing to speak, Chair Lee closed the public hearing.

Committee members discussed the importance of the proposed ordinance.

A motion to approve this ordinance for final adoption was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

3. [LR30.091](#) APPROVAL; Amendment of the [Rules of the Board](#) **Held 6-1-0**
Section V.D.3 re: Filling of Vacancy for an Elected
Office by Deletion of Last Sentence.
01/06/20 – Submitted by President Quinones
01/21/20 – Held by Committee 6-0-0

Chair Lee stated that he had communicated Committee members concerns of last month with President Quinones, who did not offer alternative language.

Committee members discussed whether this change is necessary. Deleting this sentence might not change that requirement because of Robert's Rules of Order does not permit a "no" vote on an election. Members in opposition can submit additional names to be considered. 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 will again be invited to submit revised language to better accomplish the intended objective.

A motion to hold Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller and Nabel in favor; Rep. Zelinsky opposed).

4. [LR30.070](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Concerning Polystyrene and Retail Vendors. **Held 7-0-0**
06/05/19 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson, de la Cruz, Kolenberg, Lion, Cottrell and Zelinsky
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
12/09/19 – Held at Steering
01/13/20 – Held at Steering

Mr. Johnson noted that there is currently a [bill before the General Assembly](#) regarding polystyrene. He anticipates that this bill will pass and will contain a provision to preempt local ordinances. There will be a public hearing on this bill next week.

Committee members discussed:

- Whether the Committee should proceed with publication if there is likely to be a State statute and the likelihood that a State statute will pass or will preempt local ordinances
- Replacing the language of the proposed ordinance with the Norwalk ordinance
- The need for an exemption or a longer lead time for the public schools, in order to fit with the schools' contract bidding; Dr. Lucero should be invited next month to address the time needed
- Including an exemption for raw meat as well as raw fish
- Having Norwalk's ordinance reviewed by Corporation Counsel

A motion to hold Item No. 4 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

This meeting is on [video](#).