



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

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, December 22, 2020  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** This meeting was held remotely

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Lee; and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Florio, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky. Absent was Rep. Coleman. Also present was Michael Toma, Law Department.

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

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">LR30.101</a>	APPROVAL; Amendment of the Rules of the Board to Add Subsection V.D.6 Concerning Voting During Remote Meeting Authorized by State of Emergency. 10/07/20 – Submitted by President Quinones 10/20/20 – Held by Committee, as amended, 7-0-0 11/17/20 – Held 9-0-0	<b>Approved 8-0-0</b>

Committee members discussed this item with Mr. Toma. Items discussed included the following:

- The Law Department opinion is that voting from one member to another, either through text or email is not a preferable way to vote because there are too many opportunities for confusion; everyone should vote in a way that the public can hear
- The Law Department does not believe video access is necessary; voice is the baseline
- The FOI Commission meetings require all participants to be heard, even if participating by phone
- Video and audio together would not make sense as a baseline, since not all members have the opportunity to participate on video
- If a member was late to an in-person meeting because of traffic, they would not be able to vote because they would not be present
- The Board has implemented many practices in order to ensure that members can vote, including calling members' names two additional times if they don't answer; and providing IT support during the meeting
- If a member is having difficulties, the discussion could be continued to allow the member to have time to get back on. This only addresses how people vote.

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Florio, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

2. LR30.103 REVIEW; Potential Amendment to [§111-6](#) of the Code of Ordinances. **Held 8-0-0**  
12/07/20 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson

Rep. Jacobson explained that his focus for this item is §111-6.B(4) as a result of a Virginia law which limits tethering of dogs.

Mr. Toma noted that this ordinance was discussed extensively 4 years ago, and the Law Department was involved in the rewrite. Connecticut General Statutes do permit municipalities to legislate in this area, but that discretion is somewhat limited and can't conflict with State law (eg. can't ban something specifically authorized). The State statute does give municipalities leeway to enact ordinances with greater protections than the State statute as to tethering provides. The Law Department can't give an opinion without seeing specific language. Some of the included provisions in the ordinance mirror state law and were included in order to have all of the provisions in one place.

Rep. Jacobson noted that he has spoken with Mr. Cobb and believes that there needs to be a better definition of "an unreasonable amount of time" in subsection (a) and "extreme conditions."

A motion to hold Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

***As a Secondary Committee:***

1. [LU30.050](#) RESOLUTION; Approving the Sale of Property Located at 0 West Park Place (a/k/a 66 West Park Place & Park Square West III), Stamford, Connecticut by the City of Stamford Urban Redevelopment Commission to Tullamore LLC.  
10/08/20 – Submitted by Thomas Madden  
09/29/20 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)  
11/12/20 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0  
**12/02/20 – Public Hearing Held and Held by Committee 8-0-0**

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Lee, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).