



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

Phil Berns, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice-Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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

**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger and Committee Member Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort. Also in attendance were Reps. Camporeale, de la Cruz, Goldberg, Ley, Mays, Morson, Stella, and Strain, Summerville; City Attorneys Dana Lee and Chris Dellaselva; Director of Operations Matt Quinones; Director of Economic Development Leah Kagan; Amber Schmidt, New England Zero Waste Specialist, Clean Water Action; Dr. Yaniv Chen, MD, Cindy Roberts, distributor for disposable food service supplies; Vincent Giordano, Sierra Club volunteer; and members of the public.

Chair Berns called the meeting to order at: 7:04 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. <a href="#">LR31.091</a>	<p><sup>2</sup>ORDINANCE for public hearing and final adoption; on banning the sale, provision, and distribution of single use plastic products in food and beverage establishments.</p> <p>01/06/25 – Submitted by Reps. Camporeale, Cottrell, de la Cruz and Berns</p> <p>01/28/25 – Recommitted to Steering</p> <p>01/28/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0</p> <p>02/25/25 – Recommitted to Steering</p> <p>03/25/25 – Recommitted to Steering 9-0-0</p> <p>04/07/25 – Approved for Public Hearing</p> <p><b>04/29/25 – Public Hearing held and Recommitted to Steering by Committee 8-0-0</b></p>	<b>RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 8-0-0</b>

Public hearing session opened at 7:45 pm and there were 14 members of the public who signed up to speak or raised their hand to speak. Due to technology or other reasons, 3 of these speakers could not be heard or left the meeting prior to their name being announced to speak. The majority of the speakers were in favor of the spirit of the proposed ordinance but pointed out various reasons why they felt the ordinance as currently drafted would cause economic hardship on business owners in the food service industry. Public hearing session closed at 8:30 pm.

Ms. Amber Schmidt of Clean Water, a non-profit organization who has attended and presented at prior committee meetings on this item, was again available to speak. She gave a short presentation and also assisted with answering questions regarding alternative single use food packaging to replace current plastic single use packaging. Ms. Cindy Roberts, a distributor & supplier regionally to businesses like Shop-Rite, also spoke regarding available alternatives to single use plastics for food & beverage containers. Attorney Lee spoke briefly, and answered questions from committee members; Dr. Sarah Evans, a medical doctor invited by Rep. Camporeale to speak to the committee about health impacts of single use plastic, was not available to come to the committee meeting but sent subsequent written testimony and her intended slide presentation to be added to the legislative file.

After much discussion and questions with the presenters, the committee decided to move to recommit this item to Steering to allow for more work to be done on refining the implementation timelines for it if it should pass.

A motion to recommit Item 1 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

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|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 2. <a href="#">LR31.097</a> | <sup>3</sup> RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving a sublease between Optimus Health Care, Inc. and the City of Stamford, CT located at 138 Stillwater Avenue for City's health Clinic (Displaced from Lathon Wider Center)<br>03/28/25 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons<br>04/08/25 – Approved by the Planning Board<br>04/09/25 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-1-0<br><b>04/29/25 – Public Hearing held and Approved by Committee 8-0-0</b> | <b>APPROVED<br/>8-0-0</b> |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|

The public hearing session opened at 9:27 pm and there was 1 member of the public who signed up to speak or raised their hand to speak. The speakers voiced questions regarding Optimus Health Care, which were answered by Attorney Dellaselva. The public hearing session closed at 9:29 pm.

Attorney Dellaselva answered the questions/concerns voiced by the member of the public who spoke during the public hearing and addressed any additional questions raised by the committee members. Director Bishop-Pullan was not available to attend the meeting.

A motion to approve Item 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

3. [LR31.098](#) <sup>4</sup>RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving a proposed 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the City's 2023 Lease of Space on the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Government Center to Congressman Himes. **APPROVED 8-0-0**  
03/28/25 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
04/08/25 – Approved by the Planning Board  
04/09/25 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-1-0  
**04/29/25 – Public Hearing held and Approved by Committee 8-0-0**

The public hearing session opened at 9:38 pm and there were no members of the public who signed up to speak or raised their hand to speak. The public hearing session closed at 9:38 pm.

Attorney Dellaselva summarized the reason for the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the current lease with Congressman Himes for office space: per the federal district office regulations, the terms of the lease must match the term of office for the Congress person. He also addressed any additional questions raised by the committee members. Director Quinones was also available to respond to questions from the committee members.

A motion to approve Item 3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

4. [LR31.099](#) <sup>5</sup>RESOLUTION; Urging The Connecticut General Assembly To Adopt Statewide Measures Aligned With Stamford's Sustainable Waste Ordinance. **RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 8-0-0**  
03/31/25 – Submitted by Reps. Camporeale and Berns  
**04/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0**

This item is a supportive item to LR31.091 which was recommitted, the committee decided not to hear this resolution and to move to recommit this item as well, as they would be addressed together in the future.

A motion to recommit Item 4 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

5. [LR31.100](#) <sup>1, 6</sup>ORDINANCE for publication; Requiring a Citywide Transition to Electric Landscaping Equipment in the City of Stamford **RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 8-0-0**  
04/08/25 – Submitted by Rep. Camporeale, de la Cruz, Weinberg and Berns  
**04/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0**

Dr. Chen gave a brief presentation about the item and conducted a brief question and answer session on his slide presentation based off available medical research on the topic and his medical expertise prior to the opening of the public hearing session for Item 1 on the agenda. When Item 5 came up in the agenda later in the meeting, Mr. Vincent Giordano of the Sierra Club gave an additional presentation with slides on the topic. Mr. Giordano and Attorney Lee answered questions from the committee members. At the end of the ensuing discussion on Item 5, the committee decided to recommit this item for additional work on the language of the definitions listed in the proposed ordinance and research on viable electric alternatives.

A motion to recommit Item 5 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

6. [LR31.101](#)      <sup>7</sup>RESOLUTION; Urging The Administration, The Board Of Finance and The Planning Board To Appropriate Capital Funds to Fix Scofield Manor.      **APPROVED 8-0-0**  
04/08/25 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Roqueta, Cottrell, Camporeale, Moore, Campbell, Williams, Patterson, Stella, Walston, Tomas, Kuczynski, Boeger, Pavia, Matheny, Saftic, Pierre-Louis, Figueroa, Graham, de la Cruz, Strain, Vandervoort, Adams and Sandford  
**04/29/25 – Approved by Committee 8-0-0**

A motion to approve Item 6 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

Chair Berns adjourned the meeting at 11:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Berns, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:02:49

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:41:23

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 02:23:18

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp 02:33:49

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp 02:38:22

<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp 02:40:13

<sup>7</sup> Video Time Stamp 04:07:30