



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Phil Berns, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 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 and Committee member Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort.

Ex-officio Reps. Camporeale, de la Cruz, Goldberg, Mays, and Morson were also present.

Also present were:

City Attorney Dana Lee;
Amber Schmidt, New England Zero Waste Specialist, Clean Water Action;
Dr. Sarah Evans, PhD MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai;
Mr. Nelson Muñoz, co-owner of Chiappetta-Fierro, LLC;
Mr. Paul Kampas, Kampas Research visual Design & Discovery;
Mr. Vincent Giordano, local member, Sierra Club;
Chief of Staff Bridget Fox and
Ms. Lauren Meyer, Mayor's Office;
and members of the public.

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

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. <u>LR31.091</u>	<p>¹ORDINANCE for 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>04/29/25 – Public Hearing held and Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0</p> <p>05/27/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0</p>	RECOMMENDED TO STEERING 7-0-0

Ms. Amber Schmidt of Clean Water, a non-profit organization who has attended and presented at prior committee meetings on this item, gave a short presentation and assisted with answering questions regarding alternative single-use food packaging to replace current plastic single-use packaging. Next, Dr. Sarah Evans, a research scientist on the topic of Environmental Medicine, gave a slide presentation regarding the health impacts of microplastics and scientific findings based on environmental studies of the air and water, in addition to living subject and cadaver tissue-based studies on the effects of microplastics on the human body. [Note: Dr. Sarah Evans was previously invited by Rep. Camporeale to speak to the committee about the health impacts of single use plastic but was not available to come to the committee meeting; she sent subsequent written testimony and her intended slide presentation to be added to the legislative file in April 2025]. The third presenter was Attorney Lee, who gave a brief update on the status of the draft ordinance language.

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 7-0-0 (Chair Berns, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

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| 2. <u>LR31.099</u> | ² RESOLUTION; Urging The Connecticut General Assembly To Adopt Statewide Measures Aligned With Stamford's Sustainable Waste Ordinance.
03/31/25 – Submitted by Reps. Camporeale and Berns
04/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0
05/27/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0 | RECOMMITTED
TO STEERING
7-0-0 |
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This item is a supportive item to LR31.091 which was recommitting; as such 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 2 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Chair Berns, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

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| 3. <u>LR31.100</u> | ³ ORDINANCE for publication; Requiring a Citywide Transition to Electric Landscaping Equipment in the City of Stamford
04/08/25 – Submitted by Rep. Camporeale, de la Cruz, Weinberg and Berns
04/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0
05/27/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0 | RECOMMITTED
TO STEERING
7-0-0 |
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Rep. Camporeale introduced the presenters on this item and then updated the committee to state the most recent language revisions are broken down into 3 sections of focus (changes up for discussion tonight for the next re-write of the draft ordinance):

1. Ban the sale of all 2 stroke engines & hand-held gasoline powered lawn equipment (the most polluting toxic pieces of equipment) especially a ban on just the gasoline powered leaf-blowers as they're the most toxic
2. Stopping the sale of all new gasoline powered lawn equipment (within 3 to 6 months or up to 2 years)
3. For the municipality: still working with the Director of Operations on what it would take to transition the City's fleet of gasoline-powered landscaping equipment

Mr. Muñoz gave a brief presentation about how his landscaping company Chiappetta-Fierro, LLC fully converted their company from gas powered landscaping equipment to 100 percent electric equipment several years ago and the way the company now operates with solely electric landscaping equipment. He discussed how they manage battery life in the field on jobs, the size of the batteries, and the costs to the company concluding that everyone all around was pleased; the workers, for having quieter lighter equipment spewing less fumes for them to breathe, customers and their neighbors because of the significantly quieter machines, and his bottom line as the electric machines were cheaper to run operate and maintain and last longer. Afterwards, there was a brief question and answer session between Mr. Muñoz and the committee members and other representatives in attendance regarding various factors of his company's experience on the subject.

Mr. Kampas, who helped get a similar law on the books in Acton, MA, gave a presentation with slides on the topic covering costs to operate both gas powered and electric powered landscaping equipment, including the cost benefits of converting from gas to electric both at the onset of a regulatory change and at the end of the grace period of regulatory change. Mr. Kampas answered questions from the committee members and representatives present regarding the material he covered and related topics, such as rechargeable lithium-ion battery fires (almost a non-issue for modern ones if properly manufactured). He also agreed to send the Board office a copy of his presentation for the legislative record.

Rep. Mays stated that he no longer supports the proposal and that he had his name removed as a sponsor of this item because he feels it is overreaching legislation. He originally supported the time of use restrictions on landscaping equipment due to noise concerns. He suggested the Board start with banning just gasoline powered leaf blowers in the summer months and revisit the ordinance to add additional bans in a few years.

A motion to recommit Item 3 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Chair Berns, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

Chair Berns adjourned the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Berns, Chair

This meeting is also available on [video](#).

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:01:54

² Video Time Stamp 01:03:22

³ Video Time Stamp 01:05:15