



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

Phil Berns, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice-Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 24, 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 Vice Chair Boeger (left the meeting prior to the first item's vote) Committee member Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort. Committee Rep. Pierre-Louis was absent.

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

Also present were:

City Attorney Dana Lee;  
Amber Schmidt, New England Zero Waste Specialist, Clean Water Action;  
Mr. Vincent Giordano, local member, Sierra Club;  
Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health;  
Ebrima Jobe, Director of Environmental Health & Inspection Services;  
Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations;  
Leah Kagan, Director of Economic Development;  
Carmen Hughes, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion;  
Melanie Hollas, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair;  
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 7:03 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. <a href="#">LR31.091</a> <sup>1</sup>	<p>ORDINANCE 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 8-0-0</p> <p><b>06/24/25 – Amended by committee 7-0-0</b></p> <p><b>06/24/25 – Approved for Public Hearing as Amended 7-0-0</b></p>	<p><b>APPROVED FOR PUBLIC HEARING AS AMENDED 7-0-0</b></p>

Rep. Camporeale gave a brief summary of the history of the proposed ordinance to bring everyone in attendance up to the current state of the item. She went through the things that have changed in the draft ordinance since the last meeting:

- 1) Explained the “skip the stuff” section of the ordinance where the food establishments are not allowed to ask the customer who is taking their order out if they wanted single use disposable utensils/condiments (ie. Forks, knives, silverware, napkins, condiments, fortune cookies, chopsticks, things of that nature) as this helps reduce waste
- 2) Explained the sustainable part of the ordinance for the dine-in part of the business
- 3) Explained how the ordinance would affect not only stores & supermarkets for their dine-in business but also the school system
- 4) Due to the impact of the ordinance on the school system, there will be a 10-year transition period to account for them moving to reusable or compostable items
- 5) Straws are already banned as far as no longer being allowed from automatically being put into drinks [the issue regarding the straw ban being problematic for individuals with disabilities was raised; the need for the exception for the disabled community needs to be added back into the draft ordinance was noted and agreed upon]
- 6) Black plastic, plastic flatware stirrers and straws will all be banned within nine (9) months

She also introduced the presenters on this item (Director of Economic Development Leah Kagan, who has been working with the local restaurants and food/drink businesses; Attorney Dana Lee, who has been working on the various drafts; Director of Health Jody Bishop-Pullan and Director of Environmental Health & Inspection Services Ebrima Jobe; Ms. Amber Schmidt of Clean Water.org who has been helping Rep. Camporeale on researching information for this ordinance) and advised they are available to answer any questions the committee may have.

Discussion ensued and various questions were asked and answered. Points of interest regarding enforcement included the fact that there are currently only 11 health inspectors and there are currently 15 different existing programs they are charged with enforcing. In addition, not all eleven inspectors are currently certified to perform food inspections at restaurants, as the state certification process takes time [i.e. There are currently 3 new inspectors who have been waiting for over 1 year for their state food inspector certification process to be completed]. The enactment of this draft ordinance would add another program to their list of programs to enforce. Rep. Cottrell noted during discussions that the current amount of health inspectors was something the Board should look into supporting the creation of more health inspector positions so as programs are created they have the enforcement support required.

A motion to amend Item 1 to add the following language to Section 209.4(A7) after the existing text: “Notwithstanding the above, a Prepared Food Vendor, Grocery Store, or Commissary may provide a plastic straw upon request by an individual with a disability or other or medical need. Such requests would not require proof or documentation of disability.” A motion to amend the draft ordinance as stated above was made, seconded, and approved via unanimous voice vote (Chair Berns and Committee Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort voted to approve).

A brief discussion about if another public hearing for Item 1 is necessary due to all of the material changes to the draft ordinance was had; it was determined by Attorney Lee that yes, a second public hearing would be necessary for this item due to the substantive changes to the draft ordinance and the nature of its impact. A motion to approve a second public hearing was made, seconded, and approved via unanimous voice vote (Chair Berns and Committee Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort voted to approve).

2. [LR31.099](#)<sup>2</sup> RESOLUTION; Urging The Connecticut General Assembly To Adopt Statewide Measures Aligned With Stamford's Sustainable Waste Ordinance. **RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 7-0-0**  
03/31/25 – Submitted by Reps. Camporeale and Berns  
04/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0  
05/27/25 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0  
**06/24/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0**

This item is a resolution to urge the State of Connecticut to adopt statewide measures that align with the ordinance that is Item 1 on the agenda. As such, it cannot be approved until the draft ordinance is approved; therefore, it was noted by the committee that they cannot take up the item at this time.

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).

3. [LR31.100](#)<sup>3</sup> ORDINANCE for publication; Requiring a Citywide Transition to Electric Landscaping Equipment in the City of Stamford **RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 7-0-0**  
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 8-0-0  
**06/24/25 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0**

Rep. Camporeale gave a brief summary of the history of the proposed ordinance to bring everyone in attendance up to the current state of the item. She mentioned the prior presenters from the May committee meeting (Mr. Nelson Muñoz, who transitioned his entre landscaping business to electric equipment and is also an electric equipment distributor and Mr. Vincent Giordano, who presented in May and was also present to speak with the committee again) and reviewed the things that have changed in the draft ordinance since the last meeting. She spoke with Director Quiñones regarding different ways of potentially funding a municipal conversion from gas to electric powered equipment so that the burden is not fully put on the taxpayers, as the draft ordinance not only looks to ban gas leaf blowers for citizens but also for private companies and a changeover for the municipal equipment as well.

Director Quiñones, Director Bishop-Pullan and Attorney Lee were available to speak on the proposed draft ordinance & gave statements. The potential impact on both climate change and public health were noted (\*though the public health impact may be difficult to quantify), in addition to the noise reduction. A possible flexibility clause for the City was brought up by Director Quiñones was to allow the Director of Operations to return to the Board to seek an extension should that be warranted at the time of the proposed 36-month full implementation in the event that due to lack of funding or other reasons there could be any issue preventing the process being completed in that stated timeframe. A need to also touch base with the Board of Education's Facilities Department on this to get their perspective was also noted in the discussion.

The second section of the draft ordinance discussed was the ban of the sale of these items (all 2 stroke engines). Additional discussion ensued, especially noting that if such a ban on sale of 2 stroke gas powered engines were approved, there is nothing preventing anyone from going to a neighboring municipality to purchase such equipment. Rep. de la Cruz gave a brief presentation on the environmental impacts on gas powered engines and global pollution which led to additional discussion. Mr. Giordano gave updates regarding the impacts of mining for rare earth minerals like lithium used in these electric equipment batteries and the data on lithium battery fires.

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).

4. LR31.103 <sup>4</sup>	REVIEW; Not setting committee meetings on Party Affiliation Night 06/09/25 – Submitted by Rep. Walston <b>06/24/25 – Report made</b>	<b>REPORT MADE</b>
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Chair Berns opened the discussion on Item 4 for Rep. Walston and gave report on the status of the item. The committee members and other representatives present discussed what the role of the Board of Representatives is in the matter presented, as the municipal party committees set their meeting dates/time/locations, not the Board of Representatives. Rep. Walston then spoke about the results of her research on the matter with the Republican and the Democratic City Committees. She stated that the Republican City Committee Chair had been open to setting their meeting to the same night as the Democratic City Committee's meeting. Rep. Walston also notified the committee of the response the Democratic City Committee (DCC) Chair gave on the matter when she spoke with them. The question of the DCC trying to set their meetings within the timelines given by the State and in respect to the nights various City Boards & Commissions meet was brought up and discussed at length.

A brief discussion about if a motion to recommit Item 4 to Steering was necessary ensued; it was determined that it would not be necessary as Rep. Walston had already given report on the status of her research on this item. Item 4 was instead deemed as having had the report made.

Chair Berns adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Berns, Chair

This meeting is also available on video [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:03:01

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 01:30:34

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 01:32:20

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp 02:13:38