



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

Carmine Tomas, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, July 31, 2023
Time: 6:30pm
Place: This meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair de la Cruz and Committee Member Reps. Boeger, Ley, and Dakary Watkins. Absent or Excused were Vice Chair Tomas and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Sherwood, Stella, and David Watkins. Also in attendance was Rep. Summerville; Louis Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Tyler Theder, Stormwater Management; Matt Quinones, Director of Operations; William Brink, WPCA Executive Director; and members of the public.

Chair de la Cruz called the meeting to order at 6:36pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. O31.029	APPROVAL; Agreement between the City of Stamford and Rauhaus Freedenfeld & Associates LLP for Architectural/Engineering Design Services for New Animal Control Center under RFP No. 885. [Contract Cost: \$320,000 plus expenses] 06/29/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 07/13/23 – FAILED by Board of Finance	No Action Taken
This item was failed by the Board of Finance therefore no action was taken.		
2. O31.001	REVIEW; Administration plans to Develop Short and Long Term Plan to Mitigate the Impact of Severe Storm and Rain Events as expressed in Resolution 4113 . 12/08/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Berns 12/20/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0 01/31/22 – Held by Committee 03/03/22 – Held by Committee 5-0-0 03/11/22 – Moved to Pending 04/27/22 – Held by Committee 7-0-0 06/20/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 9-0-0 07/11/22 – Moved to Pending	Report Made

Chair de la Cruz stated that, given the recent events of global warming, floods, and heat waves, it would be appropriate to see where the City stands on this item.

Director Quinones, Director Brink, and Mr. Theder, reviewed the [attached](#) presentation in detail and there was discussion.

This past fiscal year 2022-2023 almost 4,100 tons (over eight million pounds) of material was removed from catch basins. This is the highest ever recorded in Stamford. Out of 9,874 structures, 3,536 catch basins were cleaned and inspected. This means every catch basin is cleaned and inspected every three years.

Erin McKenna, City Planner, is heading a climate resiliency study and a recently funded citywide tree study.

Rep. Dakary Watkins stated there has been a sewer drainage problem at the intersection of Richmond Hill Avenue and Rose Park Avenue for years that smells. It was Mr. Theder's assessment that the problem is coming from a sanitary manhole. WPCA can put a rubber seal kit to prevent odor from escaping. There is no evidence of cross connection. Rep. Dakary Watkins will submit it to Fix It Stamford and Director Brink will look into it.

The storm water and the sanitary wastewater are not processed together. Stamford is fortunate to have separate systems.

Many landscapers and residents blow grass clippings and other debris into the streets, where it ends up in the storm drains. Some people blow it directly into the storm drain. Sec. 201, regulation of MS-4, prohibits this. Fix It Stamford is the best way to report it. Everything in the road eventually ends up in the catch basins during a precipitation event. There should be an educational component so residents understand the problems this causes.

There is an alternate side parking maintenance program for heavily parked streets, so the streets and catch basins can be cleaned. Some streets without this have special days for maintenance. This involves posting temporary no parking signs. Both of these methods are labor intensive due to cars that are not moved and have to be towed before the cleaning. All garbage on the streets eventually ends up in the catch basins. There could be an educational component, unfortunately this is not helpful with people who do not care about littering.

Chair de la Cruz asked: the resiliency and climate project includes the West side, Waterside and Downtown. Shippan is very vulnerable, why is it not included in this project?

Additionally, he asked why does this project include a GIS-based tree inventory when the citywide tree study also includes this? The tree inventory study is adequately funded, so why are there now two sources of funding for basically the same project? The individuals administering these funds should maintain focus of the two separate projects. This needs to be addressed. Mr. Casolo will follow up with Ms. McKenna about this.

Chair de la Cruz discussed that the breakwater at Stamford Harbor is almost submerged during high tide. This offers very little protection during storms and storm surges. The breakwater needs to be raised. Since a substantial portion of Stamford's tax base is in the harbor, it is important to look at the feasibility of raising the breakwater as part of the climate change resiliency approach.

Chair de la Cruz requested to get feedback from Director Quinones' team regarding:

- the conflict between the climate resiliency project and the tree inventory project funding.
- raising the breakwater.

As a Secondary Committee (at Public Safety 7/20/23 – Meeting cancelled)

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| 3. O31.033 | REVIEW; Specific Incident of Unanswered Calls to 911 from Rock Rimmon Road on 11/11/22 and Possible Relation to Cell Phone Coverage "Dead Zones" in North Stamford and/or Routing of Calls through Various Call Centers.
11/14/22 – Submitted by Reps. Nabel, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Morson, Goldberg, Grunberger Curtis, Stella, and Figueroa
11/30/22 – Report Made
12/05/22 – Held by Full Board
12/12/22 – Moved to Pending | No Action Taken |
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No action was taken on this item.

Chair de la Cruz adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).