



December 15, 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Representatives Personnel Committee:

As a follow-up to the Board of Representatives Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday, November 21st, I am writing to share the following updates regarding the Public Safety Community Engagement Liaison position. Changes are all reflected in the attached revised ordinance and job description:

- **Compensation:** The language in the ordinance reflects that this position will be a part-time position, not to exceed 24 hours per week. This will reduce the proposed annual salary from \$70,000 to \$60,000 annually.
- **Benefits:** All City employees who work over 20 hours a week have access to benefits. This position will have the opportunity to access benefits should the person in the role choose to access them.
- **Reporting structure:** As reflected in the revised job description, this position will report to the Director of Public Safety with a dotted line to the Mayor.
- <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/fire-commission> Hiring process: This is an unclassified, part-time position that serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and does not require a nomination and appointments process. Please see the attached revised job description that reflects the duties of this position. The role of this position is not to enforce public safety in the community but to identify and work with the community to understand their concerns and provide relevant information to issues concerning public safety.

The discussion at the November 21st meeting also raised questions about the need for the individual in this position to speak Spanish. We understand that a significant percentage of the City's population speaks Spanish and are committed to ensuring we communicate effectively with this population. Recently in the Mayor's Office, we hired Rachel Alonso-Mendoza as a Special Assistant to the Mayor (position was approved in last year's budget) who speaks Spanish fluently and is available for translation. Additionally, the Mayor's Office is securing translation services for our office and all public safety departments so all communications from the City (press releases, etc.) will be translated into Spanish.

Stamford residents in neighborhoods across the city, especially those in marginalized communities, feel their voices are not always heard. Vin Tufo, CEO of Charter Oak Communities, shared with the Board of Representatives on December 5th, that, "The building of trust, minimization of fear and ongoing, two-way communication that will come from this liaison will facilitate healthy, community relationships that will profoundly benefit both these residents and the community at large."



The Mayor and Director of Public Safety Lou DeRubeis believe strongly this position will provide great value to the City of Stamford. We appreciate the feedback we received from members of the Board of Representatives, which we have incorporated into the revised ordinance and hope to receive support from this committee on this position.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this position and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bridget Fox'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bridget Fox
Chief of Staff