



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: This meeting was held remotely.

The Public Safety & Health Committee will meet as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba and Sherwood. Also present were Rep. Zelinsky; Dr. Jennifer Calder, Director of Health, Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Health, Safety and Welfare; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Assistant Fire Chief Miguel Robles; Tim Abbazia and Robert Figueroa, Police Commission; Michael Cicchetti and Frederick Thomas, Frontier Communications; and Esme Lombard; Altice USA.

Vice Chair Morson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PS30.059	REVIEW; Health Concerns Associated with Reusable Plastic Bags. 07/08/20 – Submitted by Rep. McMullen	Report Made
<p>Rep. McMullen explained that he put this item on the agenda because the plastic bag bans were put on hold by the Governor and the Mayor at the beginning of the pandemic but are now back in place. Dr. Calder noted that from a public health perspective, relative risk needs to be examined. The City should be recommending washing or disinfecting of reusable bags, but there is an environmental impact on health due to environmental changes. Reusable bags have less of a negative health impact than disposable plastic bags. At the time the pandemic started, there was a belief that it could be transmitted on surfaces. Now it is known that the virus does not live long on services.</p>		
2. PS30.027	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Amending Chapter 146, Article II of the Code of Ordinances, Apartments, Multiple Dwellings, Rooming Houses and Hotels, Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 132-5.1- Fees. 11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder 11/13/18 – Moved to Pending 09/26/19 – Held by Committee 5-0-0 10/15/19 – Held at Steering	Held 8-0-0

A motion to hold Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba and Sherwood in favor).

3. PS30.047 REVIEW; Plan Regarding the Position of Fire Safety Officer. **Report Made**
10/08/19 – Submitted by Rep. Stella
10/21/19 – Held by Committee 5-0-0
12/09/19 – Held at Steering
01/13/20 – Held at Steering
02/27/20 – Held by Committee

Mr. Jankowski and Chief Robles discussed the safety protocols in place with the Committee. The first officer on the scene acts as a safety officer. The Incident Commander would have the role first, and then the Deputy Chief. All officers have received training to act as a safety officer. It is not fiscally possible to have a specialized officer or more officers. The protocols are based upon the number of unites responding.

4. PS30.049 REVIEW; Fire Hydrant Testing Procedures. **Report Made**
11/07/19 – Submitted by Rep. Stella
12/09/19 – Held at Steering
01/13/20 – Held at Steering
02/27/20 – Held by Committee

Chief Robles stated that every hydrant is tested at least once a year beginning in October. Aquarion flow tests some each year and reports to the City. Several hydrants are being repaired now.

5. PS30.060 REVIEW; Police Commission Responsibilities and Effects on Public Safety in Stamford. **Report Made**
08/05/20 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis, Stella, Pratt
Morson and Zelinsky

Mr. Abbazia and Mr. Figueroa and Mr. Jankowski discussed the Police Commission with committee members. The Commission currently has 5 members. It is a very diverse board. Its responsibilities are derived from the Charter. The primary responsibility is evaluating new candidates, approving promotions and reviewing disciplinary actions by the Chief if they are challenged. The Commission is currently trying to do more community outreach. The Commission has subpoena authority and is supported by City resources. There is no representative of the LGBTQ community on the Commission; Chief Wuennemann and Ms. Cooper of the Law Department are diversity liaisons to the Commission.

6. PS30.061 REVIEW; Utility Companies and City of Stamford Response to Tropical Storm Isaias. **Report Made**
08/05/20 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis, Stella, Pratt
Morson and Zelinsky

Committee members discussed the response to Tropical Storm Isaias with Mr. Jankowski, Mr. McGrath and the representatives of Frontier and Altice. Eversource's response was unacceptable; communications were poor and Eversource was unable to assign a crew to work with the Operations Department and so Operations was unable to clear the roads. They were unable to inform the City as to how many crews were

assigned to Stamford. Eversource was unable to resolve City priorities. A crew was finally assigned to work with Operations on 8/8.

Debris pick-up by the City was inconsistent. City employees picked up debris that was not blocking streets, after the Mayor stated that debris would not be picked up.

Eversource's priorities need to be clearly defined; Frontier needs to do a better job of maintaining the poles. Frontier and Optimum need to be better at communicating regarding appointments.

Residents' frustration was primarily due to lack of communication.

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).