



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Vice Chair Morson, and Committee Member Reps. Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack. Absent or excused were Chair Stella, and Reps. Berns and Roqueta. Also in attendance were Reps. Adams, Figueroa, Strain, Summerville, Walston, and Williams; Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare; Jennifer Pinto, Chief Enforcement Officer; Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services; Gale Hoffnagle, TRC Environmental Corp.; and members of the public.

Vice Chair Morson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Item	Description	Committee Action
11. PS31.051	REVIEW; City Citation Officers; How City Ordinances are Enforced under the City's Citation Process, and its Difficulties. 02/07/24 – Submitted by Rep. Stella and de la Cruz 02/29/24 – Held by Committee 04/08/24 – Moved to Pending 09/26/24 – Held by Committee 8-0-0 10/30/24 – Held by Committee 8-0-0 11/27/24 – Held by Committee 12/09/24 – Moved to Pending	Report Made

The Department of Public Safety, Health and Welfare has a civil citation office. Ms. Pinto is the Chief Enforcement Officer and there are two other citation officers. There are approximately 30 to 33 ordinances they can enforce.

There are other citation officers and employees with citation powers in different departments, such as the Zoning Dept., Health Dept., and Operations Dept.

The Fix It Stamford platform accounts for 60% of complaints, and 40% of complaints come from emails, phone calls, and the citation unit going out into the city. All complaints can be anonymous.

Complaints are dispersed to different departments depending on the type of complaint. Working in collaboration with other city departments is very important.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:01:15

Next week the bar and restaurant task force will begin going out to make sure all of the establishments are up to date with fire marshal and health inspections. This includes making sure the outdoor dining areas are set up properly and are ADA compliant.

All complaints that go through the Fix It Stamford system that involve a citation or an ordinance are tracked, and a quarterly report is made. All complaints that come directly to the Civil Citation Office, and all Operations Department citations, are incorporated into that report. [Attached](#) is the latest report.

Some people who violate ordinances do not realize they are in violation. Education is important for residents and business owners. A flyer was created to give restaurant, bar, and food truck owners information regarding the use of plastic bags, plastic straws, and polystyrene. Before businesses can apply for new or renewal licenses, they have to read this information so they know what products they cannot use.

Ms. Pinto stated her department is not experiencing difficulties with enforcement at this time.

² 2. PS31.002	REVIEW; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality Monitoring as Proposed in Resolution 4081 .(Previously PS30.092) 12/08/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Berns 12/13/21 – Moved to Pending 03/01/23 – Report Made 03/06/23 – Recommitted to Steering at Board Meeting by Unanimous Voice Vote 03/13/23 – Moved to Pending 04/20/22 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 05/18/22 – No Action Taken 06/13/22 – Moved to Pending 05/18/23 – Report Made 06/05/23 –Recommitted to Steering by Full Board 06/12/23 – Moved to Pending 08/24/28 – No Action Taken 09/21/23 – Report Made and Recommitted to Steering, 6-0-1 10/26/23- Report Made and Recommitted to Steering 5-0-0 11/13/23 – Moved to Pending 10/30/24 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0 11/12/24 – Moved to Pending 01/30/25 – No Action Taken 02/19/25 – Held by Committee 6-0-0	Report Made and Recommitted to Steering 6-0-0
--	---	--

After the BOR passed Resolution 4081 several monitors were put in place. Grant funding was secured and additional monitors have been put in place that will be operational within the next two weeks.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:32:45

Representatives wanted a broader plan than the purple air monitors. In March of 2024 an RFP went out to find a company to assist with the air monitoring program. TRC Environmental Corp. was the company chosen. Mr. Hoffnagle and his team have created a draft plan for the program. Director Bishop-Pullan will send it to the BOR soon.

Developing the plan involved data collection, analysis, modeling, and recommendations. The design of a monitoring plan is to evaluate the overall concentrations in the city, not to do an investigation of an individual source.

Current monitors, part of the EPA grant, are located at 137 Henry Street, 80 Fairfield Avenue, and 245 Selleck Street. There are many limitations on where monitors can be placed and after working with the vendor it was determined these were the best locations. Mr. Hoffnagle confirmed those sites as well.

Mr. Hoffnagle determined what other areas of the city to consider and what other pollutants should be looked at.

Most of the pollutants come upwind from New York City. Purple air monitors have been monitoring the pollutant transfer from NYC to Stamford. There are differences between the purple air monitor versus the new monitors. The new monitors meet the federal standards to get proper concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size. The purple air monitors only monitor particulate matter. The new monitors will help to interpret the purple monitors' findings.

The industrial emissions in Stamford do not contribute to the pollutants in the city.

Rep. de la Cruz expressed concern about the traffic congestion on I-95. Mr. Hoffnagle stated that he has recommended monitors be placed alongside I-95. However, elsewhere in Connecticut where this has already been done the concentration of nitrogen dioxide has not gone up. It is possible that I-95 may cause an odor problem, but not an air quality problem.

EPA requires that monitors be at least 10 feet high. If it is lower to the ground it does not monitor ambient air quality properly due to particle matter being stirred up by the wind. Monitors should only be placed according to EPA requirements.

Vice Chair Morson summarized that the monitoring program looks at air pollution levels coming up from NYC, and as the air moves through, to see if there has been any change due to additions from industry and other sources within Stamford. The current program is to determine overall air quality not concentrated air quality.

The purple air monitors in the eastern part of Stamford do not show any increase in pollution over the concentrations coming into Stamford from the west.

If the new monitors are installed soon, by end of summer or early fall the City will have answers.

Rep. Adams would like to see monitors at industrial sites at some point. A different type of monitoring program would be needed for specific areas of industrial activity. This program is not yet in place in Stamford.

Rep. Campbell asked what is the bottom line of the results of an air quality program. Director Bishop-Pullan said it so that people can make informed decisions to protect their health. Also the City cannot regulate industry but it can use the monitoring results to inform and influence policies.

Rep. Campbell would like to see information from Stamford Health's pulmonary department and research department about what they are finding from patient studies.

Although there is now a draft plan for an air quality program, there is no funding to implement the plan. That would be the next step.

Recently the EPA declared Fairfield County a serious non-attainment area, so it is unlikely any new industries can be permitted in the area without having extremely small emissions.

Availability of power and Wi-Fi was not a consideration of the draft plan. Mr. Hoffnagle gave general locations of where the monitors should go, but did not recommend specific buildings or power sources.

Director DeRubeis stated that while municipalities do not have regulatory authority, Stamford has made tremendous strides since Resolution 4081 in 2021 and continues to move forward with the air monitoring process.

Director Bishop-Pullan noted there will be a second community meeting on the Air Quality Monitoring Program on [Tuesday, June 3rd at 5:30pm](#) in the Government Center.

A motion to recommit this item to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Morson, Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

Under a suspension of the Rules (Late Submissions):

- | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 3. PS31.067 | REVIEW; of City and School System Policies, Protocols, and Procedures Requiring Public Notification of Incidents.
05/12/25 – Submitted by Rep. Stella | HELD |
| 4. PS31.068 | REVIEW; of City Policies, Protocols, and Procedures That Require Notification to Designated Officials—But Not the Public—Following Certain Incidents.
05/12/25 – Submitted by Rep. Stella | HELD |

Due to the unavailability of the invited guests, Items #3 and #4 were held.

Vice Chair Morson adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Morson, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).