



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Brien Buckman, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2016
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Buckman and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Miller, Pratt and Watkins. Absent or excused was Committee Member Rep. Summerville. Also present were Reps. Ryan and Zelinsky; Chief of Staff Michael Pollard; and Libby Carlson, Special Assistant to the Mayor.

Chair Buckman called the meeting to order at 6:33.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s)
1. SC29.032	REVIEW; 2016 State Legislative Initiatives. 11/03/15 – Submitted by Rep. Buckman 11/30/15 – Public Hearing held 11/30/15 – Held in Committee 12/09/15 – Held in Committee	Mayor Martin M. Pollard L. Carlson

Committee members reviewed recommendations from the Board and the Administration to determine issues they would like the State legislators to focus on during this legislative session.

Mr. Pollard stated that some of the issues the Administration plans to pursue this year are:

- Funding for revamping Veterans Park (there is already some private funding available for this and the City has put aside some funds)
- Revisiting the requirement of CHRO that the City to hold back 2% of fees associated with a capital project to ensure diversity, because not all vendors can afford this.
- The MS4 permit requirements
- The importance of proportionality in decision making in the COG
- Implementing a hotel tax
- Strings attached to funding under SP1 based upon how much City spending grows

- The lack of locations to certify pre-school teachers, which limits the ability of local programs to hire

This list will not be finalized until after the Administration discusses these with State legislators and the lobbyists. Mr. Pollard committee to transmit the Administration's prioritized list by the end of the month.

Mr. Pollard commented on recommended topics from Board members:

- They have asked the State to increase the share of traffic violation fines with the City in the past.
- They try not to duplicate CCM's legislative agenda
- The legislators might be interested in changing the statute of limitations on major crimes
- He does not believe the State would be interested in increasing the permit fee for liquor licenses.
- They are looking at changing the policies for relocation of families including possible remedies
- They are already working on implementing a hotel tax within the City
- The State will not give up its sovereign right to make decisions regarding the Transit Center

The Committee came up with the following list of priorities for this legislative session:

1. Enable local municipalities to implement and collect a municipal hotel tax
2. Increase the fines for moving traffic violations.
3. Change the relocation of families policies to allow non-City properties to be used for relocation and permit timely reclamation of fees.

Chair Buckman adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brien Buckman, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).