



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Lindsey Miller, Chair

Robert Roqueta, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018

Time: 7:00 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 Miller and Committee Member Rep. Graziosi. Absent or excused were Reps. Roqueta, Adams, Liebson, Mahoney and McGarry. Also present were Rep. Stella; Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff; Libby Carlson, Special Assistant to the Mayor; State Senator Carlo Leone; and Jim Lohr, New England Carpenters Labor-Management Program.

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designee(s)
1. SC30.006	REVIEW; City of Stamford's Legislative Priorities. 01/03/18 – Submitted by Rep. Miller 01/26/18 – Held in Committee	Report Made

Mr. Pollard and Ms. Carlson reviewed the [attached materials](#) with the Committee:

- In the budget, legislative affairs is moving under Economic Development
- Unlike other large cities in Connecticut, Stamford does not have dedicated legislative affairs staff, but Stamford receives a lower percentage of its budget from the State
- Having a small staff keeps the process streamlined
- The majority of the activity at this time of year is with the State lobbyist
 - The lobbyist communicates directly with State legislators (including those who do not represent Stamford)
 - The lobbyist can identify the appropriate channels to get a certain result (e.g. the funding for the Strawberry Hill School)
- At the federal level, the lobbyist is vital in obtaining federal funds
 - The lobbyist assists in meeting with federal agencies
 - The lobbyists more than pay for themselves in the amount of funds the City receives
 - The current lobbyist helps to write grants, which most lobbyists do not do
- They also work with other agencies such as CCM (Connecticut Conference of Mayors)
- This year is a short session, so the ability to raise bills is limited to committee chairs; in a long session, anyone can raise bills

- One priority of the administration is speed cameras targeting areas where there is a risk to pedestrians, with signage, which will slow drivers down; and they are seeking a pilot program in Stamford
 - Senator Leone noted that this has been held up because of concerns of privacy, abuse, revenue, racial profiling
 - In December they ask for legislative suggestions from all City departments
2. SC30.004 REVIEW; Meeting with State Legislators re: 2017 **Report Made**
state legislative accomplishments and proposed
2018 General Assembly Legislative initiatives.
12/06/2017 – Submitted by Rep. Miller

Senator Leone explained that all of the legislators are currently in the middle of meetings and hearings. He discussed the following with the Committee:

- Many bills have been submitted on behalf of the City
- Members of the delegation are each on at least 3 committees, covering approximately 23 committees
- This year they are working on traffic proposals, more money for education, zoning proposals, body cameras, transportation money
- They are responsible for the widening of Courtland Ave, replacing the bridge over Rt. 1 (which will be done over a weekend)
- He listed numerous entities in Stamford which have received money and support from the State through grant programs
- The delegation tries to work together for the City
- If tolls were allowed, there are funding questions
- There are numerous discussions regarding DOTs funding
- The State is one of the strictest in the country regarding gun laws; there is still resistance regarding legislation

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Miller, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)