



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Lindsey Miller, Chair

Robert Roqueta, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: This meeting was held remotely

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Miller, Vice Chair Roqueta, and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Graziosi and Policar. Also present were Reps. McMullen and Sherwood; Mayor David Martin; Michael Pollard, Mayor's Office; Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration; and one member of the public.

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

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. SC30.039	REVIEW; Formulae Used to Allocate CARES Act Funds to City of Stamford. 01/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. McMullen, Sherwood, de la Cruz and Fedeli	Report Made

Rep. McMullen explained why this was put on the Agenda. Representatives have heard for several years that when these types of allocations are distributed Stamford does not get a fair share. The BOR has never received numbers to confirm that idea. The intent is to understand how the money is allocated.

Mayor Martin reviewed this item in detail and there was discussion.

- CARES funding is supposed to be distributed to municipalities to handle the cost of dealing with COVID issues, so municipalities with most COVID cases should receive the most money. But this is not part of the formula.
- Land mass or the grand list should not matter.
- Stamford is highly vulnerable due to the proximity to NYC. However many municipalities receive more than double the funds than Stamford.
- Stamford received is \$11.00 per capita, yet wealthier towns such as New Canaan received \$16.00 and Ridgefield received \$22.00.
- Bridgeport received three times the funding as Stamford, yet has only a slightly larger population.
- Many municipalities received more money both per capita and per COVID case.
- The federal government dictated that rather than receive direct funding, states can decide the distribution of funds for all cities with a population under 250,000.
- Stamford was expecting \$2.2 million but received approximately \$1.7 million.

- Stamford was the epicenter of risk in the Spring, yet out of 169 municipalities in CT, Stamford ranked 160th in how much money was received.
- A key problem with the formulas is that higher density cities get more money and this is a poor variable to use. Higher population cities should get more funding regardless of density. This type of formula works better with educational funding.
- The formulas appear to penalize cities economically for being diverse. The needs are not being addressed properly.
- If calculations were done at block group levels, Stamford would most likely receive more funding.
- Formulas need to be changed to reward diversity instead of rewarding towns for not providing the ability for people of lesser means to live there.
- Mr. Pollard is working with municipalities to build a coalition to approach the State to seek change for how future funding is allocated.

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Miller, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).