



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Lindsey Miller, Chair

Robert Roqueta, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, August 19, 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 and Committee Member Reps. Adams and Policar. Excused was Rep. Graziosi. Absent was Vice Chair Roqueta. Also in attendance was Rep. de la Cruz; Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development; and Economic Development Interns Josh Cam, John Hicks, Jesont Holley, Matt Keller, Sara Molina, Tom Shirley, and Mathew Yerushalmi.

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

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. SC30.043	REVIEW; Effectiveness of CT Transit bus service in the City of Stamford. 07/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz, Watkins, and Stella 07/22/21 – Report Made & Held	HELD
2. SC30.045	REVIEW; Launch of TechFWD. 07/23/21 – Submitted by Rep. Miller	HELD
3. SC30.044	REVIEW; Projects Completed by Economic Development Interns on Behalf of City of Stamford. 07/30/21 – Submitted by Thomas Madden	REPORT MADE

Mr. Madden explained that this year the interns completed two projects. One was an updated/completion of the McKinsey study about Stamford's equitable economic recovery. Tom Shirley, who is a Harvard Bloomberg Fellow, led this project. The other project was developing a film permit book for Stamford, which came out of the Mayor's Youth Employment Program. Josh Cam led the team on this project.

[The McKinsey Study](#) was discussed:

- The objective was to build on the previous McKinsey study, focusing on Stamford's equitable economic recovery.
- Three work streams were utilized: community engagement, data analysis and desk research.

- The team went door-to-door to businesses in underserved areas to talk to the business owners.
- The team connected with many organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Business Development Council, and also UConn and Sacred Heart University.
- The team spoke to people in New Haven and Hartford government to see how contracts are awarded.
- A comprehensive approach to procurement reform is needed.
- Data collection should be improved in Stamford.
- Stamford should look at being more inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community.
- This project will tie in with the new position of a Diversity Officer being created.
- The top five findings that Stamford needs are:
 - Better support for underserved community businesses.
 - More equitable City procurement.
 - Direct support for small, diversely owned businesses.
 - Options for workforce development to grow Stamford's workforce.
 - Increasing Stamford's culture and tourism.

[The Film Permit Book](#) for Stamford was then discussed.

- The objective was to create a comprehensive film permit booklet for filmmakers regarding all legalities, policies and requirements for filming in Stamford, and also information to entice filmmakers to Stamford.
- Several movies have been filmed in Stamford in the past and recently numerous Netflix productions are being filmed.
- Stamford currently has NBC Sports and ITV studios, and several television shows are produced here.
- The book also lists the many vendor services that can be utilized while filming, such as hotels, caterers, and cleaning companies. A large vendor list has been created with the vendors' permission.
- Stamford's close proximity to New York City makes it easy for talent to go back and forth while filming.
- Many quality photos of Stamford are in the book. The team scouted many locations, requested property owners' permission to be put in the database, and interior and exterior photos were taken.
- The team looked at how other cities draw filmmakers in such as Atlanta, New York, Vancouver and Toronto.
- Mark Dixon of the Connecticut Office of Film, Television and Digital Media was very helpful during this project.
- The book shows Stamford from an outsider's perspective, whether for filming or opening a studio.
- The book will be in a modern magazine format, approximately 50 pages.

Mr. Madden thanked the interns (including some who could not be at the meeting) for all of their hard work and what they produced in a short time of only eight to 10 weeks.

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Miller, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).