



State & Commerce Committee – Board of Representatives

Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

Jonathan Jacobson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance was Chair Pierre-Louis and Committee Members Rep. Goldberg, Ley, Miller, and Sandford. Excused were Reps. Jacobson and Pratt. Also in attendance was Rep. Cottrell; Mayor Caroline Simmons; Bridget Fox, Janeene Freeman, Leah Kagan, Lauren Meyer, Aaron Miller, Mayor's Office; Matt Quinones, Director of Operations; Loren Nadres, Director of Economic Development; Frank Petise, Interim Transportation Bureau Chief; Luke Bittenwieser, Traffic Engineering; Marc Favreau, Citizens Climate Lobby; Alex Rodriguez, Save the Sound; and six members of the public.

Chair Pierre-Louis called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. SC31.006	ORDINANCE for publication; Amendment to Chapter 214, Article V , of the Code of Ordinances, Outdoor Dining, to Expand Outdoor Dining Into Parking Spaces and the Roadway. 02/09/22 – Submitted by Frank Petise 03/02/22 – Held by Committee 5-0-0	Held 4-0-0
Due to the Governor's Executive Order today to resume outdoor dining, it was decided to hold this item until next month. Mr. Petise explained that with the executive order the City will continue outdoor dining this year under the same process as last year.		
A motion to hold Item #1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Reps. Pierre-Louis, Goldberg, Ley, and Sandford in favor).		
2. SC31.004	REVIEW; Review of Opportunity Zones. 12/08/21 – Submitted by Rep. Miller 12/29/21 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 01/10/22 – Moved to Pending	Held 4-0-0

Ms. Nadres requested this item be held until next month.

A motion to hold Item #2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Reps. Pierre-Louis, Goldberg, Ley, and Sandford in favor).

- ¹³. [SC31.007](#) RESOLUTION; Declaring a Climate Emergency.
01/05/22 – Submitted by Reps. Cottrell, Jacobson and Berns
01/10/22 – Held at Steering
03/02/22 – Held by Committee 5-0-0

Approved 4-0-0

Mr. Favreau reviewed the [attached](#) presentation.

Rep. Cottrell explained that Rep. Ley and she amended the previous draft of the resolution and added some action items, although it is not an exhaustive list. A whereas clause was added to make infrastructure more resilient.

There was brief discussion on whether or not this resolution should be held.

Mr. Rodriguez expressed his support of this resolution, stating that it is very comprehensive.

Mayor Simmons stated that the Administration is in full support of this resolution. As the second largest city in Connecticut, we have an obligation to do our part to mitigate the effects of climate change and make the city more resilient. Stamford should serve as a model for other cities.

The Mayor's Climate Council was created two weeks ago, and is prioritizing a number of resiliency measures. An RFP was launched to solarize municipal and school buildings. Many other measures are being discussed.

A motion to approve Item #3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Reps. Pierre-Louis, Goldberg, Ley, and Sandford in favor).

- ²⁴. SC31.008 REVIEW; CT Innovation Corridor Grant.
03/09/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

Report Made

Mayor Simmons and Ms. Nadres reviewed the [attached](#) presentation.

- The Connecticut Innovation Campus proposal was submitted to the State Department of Economic and Community development.
- There is a gap in Connecticut between the need for technical talent in the area, and the ability to attain the talent.
- Transformational action is needed otherwise the State's economy will struggle while competing with nearby cities for technical talent and thriving companies.
- The purpose of this innovation campus is to address these needs. These efforts will attract more companies to Stamford and will create more talent.
- Four main components to how this will be done for a quick and sustained impact:
 - Academic skills
 - Skills-based learning hub
 - Incubation and acceleration services
 - Future work lab research
- This is in the early stages and the Administration is waiting for the State grant.
- The process is evolving and it has not yet been determined if it will be in one location or co-located.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:04:45

² Video Time Stamp: 00:29:40

³⁵. SC31.009 REVIEW; Federal Infrastructure – City’s strategy to Secure Federal Funding.
03/09/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

Report Made

Ms. Fox and Mr. Quinones updated this item and there was discussion.

- Mayor Simmons is committed to doing whatever she can to secure federal funding.
- Stamford has a federal lobbying firm that did an excellent job of briefing the Administration on the process in Washington.
- The focus of the Administration is to get organized, share information, and coordinate connections with the State to be able to capture as much federal funding as possible.
- There are two types of processes in seeking funding:
 - Competitive process, which is based on merits and other conditions.
 - Formula based process, which does not allow for as much influence based on each project.
- There are funds flowing thru the State with the intention of getting to the individual municipalities. The Administration is working in partnership with the State on this.
- Three significant areas of funding are available:
 - Climate, energy and environment
 - Transportation
 - Broadband and cyber
- Some of these are recurring funding over a course of as many as five years.
- It is anticipated that Connecticut will receive \$6 billion, which will be allocated on a competitive basis. The State has asked for projects that are regional in focus.
- Ms. Fox stated they are working with WestCOG to identify regional project partners.

Chair Pierre-Louis adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:43:48