



## ***State & Commerce Committee – Board of Representatives***

Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

Jonathan Jacobson, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday June 23, 2022  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely.*

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Pierre-Louis, Vice Chair Jacobson, and Committee Member Reps. Ley, Miller, Sandford, and Walston. Excused was Rep. Goldberg. Also in attendance were Reps. Boeger, Fedeli, Sherwood, and Tomas; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety & Health; Frank Petise, Director of Transportation; Luke Bittenwieser, Traffic Engineering; Loren Nadres, Director of Economic Development; Bridget Fox, Leah Kagan, and Lauren Meyer, Mayor's Office; and three members of the public.

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

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
11. 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 <b>03/30/22 – Held by Committee 4-0-0</b>	<b>Report Made</b>
Ms. Nadres reviewed Stamford's Opportunity Zones.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is a federal led and managed program, it is not led or managed by the City.</li><li>• Investors must file an IRS form and self-certify their corporation/partnership as a qualified opportunity fund.</li><li>• The City does not have access to who has participated since it involves IRS applications.</li><li>• Tax incentives are at the federal level, not at the local level.</li><li>• The program incentivizes investors to keep their investments in the City for 10 years to get the most from their tax returns.</li><li>• The program was designed to spur economic development and job creation, and to provide federal tax benefits for private investments in the zones.</li><li>• There are 72 opportunity zones in Connecticut, five of those are in Stamford.</li><li>• The investments must be in qualifying projects such as real estate, businesses, and energy-related projects.</li><li>• Rep. Miller requested that Ms. Nadres look into what is being built in the open areas in the opportunity zones.</li></ul>		

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:01:15

- The City does not actively promote small businesses for the opportunity zone, but there is information on the Choose Stamford website, [www.choosestamford.com](http://www.choosestamford.com), and information is given at forums that are held locally.

- <sup>2</sup>2. [SC31.010](#) RESOLUTION; Sense of The Board Urging the General Assembly to Permit Municipalities to Install and Operate Speed Cameras Near Schools. **Approved as Amended 6-0-0**  
 06/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Baxter, Campbell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Moore, Morson, Nabel, Pavia, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Stella, and Watkins

Rep. Jacobson explained his reason for putting this item on the Agenda. Speeding is a very pressing issue with his constituents in Stamford. In the upcoming legislative session there is going to be a push from the Stamford delegation and other municipalities to authorize speed cameras in certain areas. There is a pilot program in place on State highways to protect construction workers. The federal government has earmarked billions of dollars towards speed camera enforcement. Certain areas are more sensitive than others, such as the Strawberry Hill Avenue corridor, as there have been multiple fatalities there. There is little Stamford can do as a municipality other than this resolution, so this resolution is very important.

Mr. Petise stated the Transportation Bureau is generally in favor of speed cameras in front of schools. Studies have shown that speed cameras in front of schools result in lower speeds.

Mr. Jankowski stated the State's Attorney is very receptive to the idea of speed cameras with two concerns. First, police radar equipment is checked daily and certified every six months. Speed cameras would need to have the same process. Second, speed camera enforcement is based on the vehicle owner, not the driver at the time of the violation.

Mr. Bittenwieser reviewed the [attached](#) presentation in detail.

- The pedestrian fatality rate is at a 40 year high across the country.
- Stamford has had two to three fatal accidents each year in the past few years. The number of accidents with injuries has risen.
- The faster the vehicle, the higher the chance an accident will result in a fatality.
- Automated enforcement is not legal in Connecticut right now.
- Speed cameras have proven to be successful with behavior modification.
- New York City has speed camera enforcement operational only during school hours. Speed has been shown to be slower during those hours.

Rep. Sherwood stated she is against using artificial intelligence to monitor and enforce speed because 1) it fines the car owner and not necessarily the driver and 2) tickets are received through the mail and the driver might not remember the situation.

There was discussion on whether or not "100 yards" is sufficient for the resolution since every school has a different type of property set up. Additionally, if the State authorizes municipalities to use speed cameras, the BOR can come back to this issue to discuss specifics.

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:14:20

A motion to amend the Now Therefore Be It Resolved clause to read: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 31ST BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT it urges the Connecticut General Assembly to enact a statewide law permitting the use of automated speed safety cameras within ~~100 yards of the entrance of any school building~~ a reasonable distance of school property was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Pierre-Louis, Jacobson, Ley, Miller, Sandford, and Walston in favor).

A motion to amend the fifth Whereas clause to read: WHEREAS, automated school zone speed safety cameras would enhance the safety of students walking ~~into and out of school buildings to~~ and from school property was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Pierre-Louis, Jacobson, Ley, Miller, Sandford, and Walston in favor).

A motion to approve Item # 2 as amended was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Pierre-Louis, Jacobson, Ley, Miller, Sandford, and Walston in favor).

Chair Pierre-Louis adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).