



State & Commerce Committee – Board of Representatives

Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

Jonathan Jacobson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Time: 7:00pm

Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Pierre-Louis, and Committee Member Reps. Goldberg, Miller, and Walston. Absent or excused were Reps. Jacobson, Ley, and Sandford. Also in attendance was Leah Kagan, Acting Director of Economic Development.

Chair Pierre-Louis called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. <u>SC31.003</u>	REVIEW; Overview of Stamford's Economic Development. 12/08/21 – Submitted by Rep. Miller 12/29/21 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 01/10/22 – Moved to Pending	Report Made

Ms. Kagan reviewed the [attached presentation](#) and there was a brief discussion. Some of the points discussed were:

- Mayor Simmons' vision is to advance economic prosperity and to create an inclusive, thriving, and competitive economy in Stamford.
- Small business resiliency grants have received 250 applications for 150 grants. The economic development team visited over 200 business and strategically targeted every neighborhood in Stamford. Virtual and in-person information sessions were held. The applications are currently being reviewed and the lottery will be the week of July 17th.
- Stamford is focusing on business attraction and retention. Several new businesses are coming into the City, including corporations, small businesses and retail. Ms. Kagan will get back to the BOR with the number of jobs being created with these new businesses.
- The Stamford Town Center is privately owned and there has been a challenge the past few years to get and retain new tenants. The opening of the SoHo mall has added more challenges. New places have moved into the mall including Pickle Ball America and the New York Comedy Club. Ms. Kagan plans to work on getting more retail in Stamford as many residents say they want this.
- Downtown Special Services District is at a 90 percent occupancy rate.

- Over the past 18 months expanding Stamford globally has been a big priority. The Global Stamford initiative was launched with the goal of raising Stamford's profile as a fintech hub. This was launched in partnership with the Foreign Trade Commissioners Association. The City is working in partnership with AdvanceCT, an organization that aims to recruit and retain businesses in Connecticut.
- It is important that current corporate headquarters remain in Stamford. The lines of communication need to stay open with those companies regarding any concerns they have about staying in Stamford.
- Stamford is working with State and local partners to make sure residents have the skills to fill jobs. This includes working with UConn and Norwalk Community to make sure programs are available to learn these skills.

Chair Pierre-Louis suggested having information sessions at the library for residents to meet with Ms. Kagen so she can share this information.

The Committee will invite Ms. Kagen back in September for an update.

2. SC31.013 REVIEW; Stamford Partnership.
04/13/23 – Submitted by Rep. Pierre-Louis

Held 4-0-0

Item #2 was held by a unanimous voice vote (Reps. Pierre-Louis, Goldberg, Miller, and Walston in favor).

Chair Pierre-Louis adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).