



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

Jonathan Jacobson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

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 and Committee Member Reps. Goldberg, Ley, Miller and Walston. Also in attendance were Reps. Adams, Roqueta and Summerville; Kevin Peraino, Isis-Rae Goulbourne and Jodi Gutierrez, Stamford Partnership.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. SC31.013	REVIEW; Stamford Partnership. 04/13/23 – Submitted by Rep. Pierre-Louis	Report Made

Committee Members discussed Item No. 1 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following.

- Stamford Partnership was founded 45 years ago with.
- The Board is made up of one third city and State officials, one third nonprofit and community leaders, and one third corporate stakeholders for about 30 to 40 volunteers.
- The mission of the partnership is to make Stamford a better place for everyone who lives, works, and visits here.
- The Partnership has a variety of significant impacts such as being the incubator for organizations such as Neighbors Link, the DSSD, The Chamber of Commerce, the Mill River Park collaborative and helped bring UConn to Downtown Stamford.
- The organization helped to rebrand the city by creating a new logo and the tagline “Innovating since 1641”.
- The current focus of the organization is:
 - Workforce training and development for the tech industry.
 - Helping minority business owners and startups to utilize free co-working space.
 - Providing networking opportunities and connecting them to vendors and other organizations who could provide beneficial services.
 - Providing assistance in applying for grants.
- Stamford Partnership is a co-convenor of the Southwest Connecticut Tech enabled Regional Sector Partnership (RSP).
- RSP is part of Governor Lamont’s Workforce Council and focuses on workforce training that consists of corporate executives, higher education leaders and other community members.
- Connecticut was awarded 24 million in federal funding in support of the Good Jobs Challenge initiative, which aims to train and place hundreds of area workers in quality jobs, in the region.
- There are 100,000 open jobs in Connecticut.

- Enlisted Indeed.com to help job seekers facing barriers by providing Lyft vouchers to help get people to their interviews, and distributing laptop computers to people who don't have access to connectivity.
- The Leadership Fairfield County initiative trains 30 mid-level career professionals participating in a series of monthly discussions and workshops at a different place each month.
- Other programs include:
 - Weekly community co-working from 9 am to noon every Thursday in Shippan Landing.
 - Discounted head shots by professional photographers.
 - Hosting the Women of Stamford co-working every other Thursday.
 - The Dream Up grant in which three people were awarded \$5000 each.
 - The Room for All program which brings community organizations together to provide resources for many startups and other small businesses.
 - Providing administrative service for 501(c)(3)s.
 - Hosting Fireside Chats with top executives from companies around the city, The Mayor, the Board of Reps, and representatives from other sectors to come and speak to the community.
 - The Stamford Promise will award children in the in the Stamford High School system \$5000 if they make the promise to have a certain attendance record and grades, perform community service and to keep the promise for all 4 years.
- The organizational structure consists of a marketing committee, finance committee, and other committees consisting of top-level executives, city and state officials as well as community leaders and volunteers.
- The Leadership Meet Career Cohort will begin in February 2024. Recruiting has begun with advertising this and other programs through the organization's social media channels as well as word of mouth.

Chair Pierre-Louis adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).