



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

Jonathan Jacobson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Vice Chair Jacobson and Committee Member Reps. Goldberg, Ley, and Miller. Also in attendance were Reps. Adams, Cottrell, and Weinberg; Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services; Ebrima Jobe, Director of Environmental Health & Inspections and Raquelle Early, Administrative Assistant-Health.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. SC31.015	RESOLUTION; to pledge to treat others with dignity (to practice and promote civility in the City of Stamford). 04/03/24 – Submitted by Submitted by Reps. Cottrell, Camporeale, Pavia, Strain	Motion to hold 4-0-0

Rep. Cottrell reviewed the Dignity Index, an eight-point scale that scores speech along a continuum from contempt to dignity in as unbiased a manner as possible. The eight points are:

- Level one escalates from violent words to violent actions.
- Level two accuses the other side not just of doing bad or being bad but promoting evil.
- Level three attacks the other side's moral character, not just their capabilities or competence.
- Level four mocks and attacks the other side's background, their beliefs, their commitment, their competence, their performance.
- Level five listens to the other side's point of view and respectfully explains their own goals, views, and plans.
- Level six sees it as a welcome duty to work with the other side to find common ground and act on it.
- Level seven wants to fully engage the other side – discussing the deepest disagreements they have to see what breakthroughs they can find.
- Level eight – I can see myself in every human being, I refuse to hate anyone, and I offer dignity to everyone.

A motion to hold Item 1 to postpone to a date certain after the May 15, 2024 Special Meeting to consider a censure was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Vice Chair Jacobson, Reps. Goldberg, Ley, and Miller in favor).

2. SC31.016 REVIEW; Review of procedure for multifamily dwelling licenses **Report Made**
04/08/24 – Submitted by Reps. Adams

Director Bishop-Pullan discussed the inspection process:

- Licenses are issued by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- A fire marshal inspection is required within one year of the license being issued.
- There are no annual inspections for multi-family dwellings.
- Inspections must be performed once an apartment becomes vacant before it can be reoccupied.
- Every October, the first licensing renewal notifications are sent electronically to the email address used to register on the online portal.

Rep. Adams suggested having licensing notices mailed out along with the yearly tax notices to reduce the number of people missing deadlines and being charged fees.

No further discussion was had, and Item 2 was closed.

3. [SC31.017](#) RESOLUTION; Creating a Social Media Committee Strategy for the Board of Representatives **Motion to hold 4-0-0**
2/07/24 – Submitted by Reps. Camporeale and Cottrell

Rep. Cottrell discussed the need for the office to be able to distribute content to the public through Facebook and Nextdoor.

A motion to hold Item 3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Vice Chair Jacobson, Reps. Goldberg, Ley, and Miller in favor).

Vice Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathon Jacobson, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).