



## **Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives**

James Diamond, Chair

Arthur Layton, Vice Chair

# **Report of Meeting & Public Hearing**

**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2009  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Republican Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. Present were Chair Diamond and Vice Chair Layton and Committee Member Reps. Day, Esposito, Gabriele, Heaphy, Lodato, Mitchell and Zelinsky. Absent/excused were Reps. Berns and Martin. Also present was Clerk of the Board Summerville; Tom Cassone, Esq., Director of Legal Affairs; Jeanette Brown of the WPCA; Fran Pastore of the Women's Business Development Center.

Chair Diamond called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">LR27.093</a>	RESOLUTION & <b>public hearing</b> ; approving a lease with the Women's Business Development Center for office space in the Government Center.	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED</b> <b>7-0-0</b>

Chair Diamond opened the public hearing; there being no members from the public wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Chair Diamond explained that this is a renewal lease with \$0 rent.

- The non-profit is 12 years old and has been located at the Government Center for the past 5 years. They have one small office here; the training seminars are held off site so there is very little traffic to the Government Center office.
- The WBDC trains people to start micro enterprises by providing education and training.
- They have a staff of 7.
- They serve about 1,000 clients; about 200 are from Stamford with the remainder from the surrounding area.
- The organization is a project of the U.S. Congress and funded through a US Small Business Administration grant that requires in-kind contributions.
- Utilities are included in the rent.
- They are in the process of determining the status (success rate) of the businesses started by those they have counseled.

- Most of the women that are served are low to moderate income; currently, about 20% of their clients are male.

A motion to approve Item No. LR27.093 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Diamond, Layton, Day, Gabriele, Heaphy, Lodato and Zelinsky in favor).

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| 2. <a href="#">LR27.094</a> | PROPOSED ORDINANCE; <b>for publication</b> ; of a tax abatement agreement between the City and 58 Progress Drive Limited Partnership. | <b>COMMITTEE APPROVED 8-0-0</b> |
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Mr. Cassone explained that this has been approved by the Tax Abatement Committee. This allows the Housing Authority to take advantage of low income tax credits and will apply to 57 low income housing units.

Chair Diamond confirmed that this abatement is similar to the other abatements granted.

A motion to approve Item No. LR27.094 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Diamond, Layton, Day, Gabriele, Heaphy, Lodato, Mitchell and Zelinsky in favor).

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| 3. <a href="#">LR27.080</a> | PROPOSED ORDINANCE; <b>for publication</b> ; requiring the abatement of discharge of fats, oils and grease into public sewers. | <b>COMMITTEE APPROVED 9-0-0</b> |
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Chair Diamond explained that the latest version reflects Jeanette Brown’s work on streamlining the ordinance, amending the definitions of “major and minor violations” and “renovations” and includes the actual fines.

The Committee discussed the compliance date of July 1, 2010. Rep. Lodato pointed out that the State statute requires a compliance date of July 1, 2011. Ms. Brown felt that it was up to the Board as to which date it wanted to utilize. The Committee decided that it would wait until the public hearing to determine the effective date.

Ms. Brown stated that there is no way to estimate the cost to restaurants as it will vary anywhere from \$250 to \$10,000, depending on the size of the restaurant, the existing plumbing and the size and capacity of the grease trap necessary.

Mr. Cassone explained that the City is currently liable for damage from sewer drain back-ups that are oftentimes the result of restaurant-caused grease disposal. This ordinance will help to reduce the City’s liability.

The ordinance will require restaurants to install a proper grease trap, maintain it properly and have it professionally cleaned on a regular basis. There are three sites in CT for disposal, and the WPCA is considering becoming a site some time in the future.

Ms. Brown stated she will work with the DSSD and the restaurant association to provide education on the requirements of the ordinance. Rep. Heaphy suggested that all educational material also be translated into Spanish. Chair Diamond requested that the industry association and the DSSD be invited to the public hearing.

A motion to amend the ordinance by changing the language in the definition: "Violations – Major" to read: "(f) ~~two~~ **three** or more Violations-Minor within any one year period" was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Diamond, Esposito, Layton, Day, Gabriele, Heaphy, Lodato and Zelinsky in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. LR27.080 for publication was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Diamond, Chair