



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Gloria DePina, Co-Chair Ralph Loglisci, Co-Chair Anabel Figueroa, Vice Chair

Report of Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2012
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Legislative Chambers, 4th Floor Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford CT

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. Present were Co-Chairs DePina and Loglisci, Vice Chair Figueroa and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Caterbone, Coppola, Pia and Mallozzi. Excused was Committee Member Rep. Giraldo. Also present were Reps. DeLuca, Franzetti and Uva; Attorney Vincent Freccia; and Paul Zeiss Anti-Blight Officer.

Item No.	Description	VOTE Yes-no-abstain
1. PS28.042	PROPOSED ORDINANCE; <u>for publication</u> ; Amending Sections 146-153 to 1) to mandate that those who fail to attend Level 1 hearings must appear before the Anti-Blight Committee; 2) delete the definition of Appeals Board; 3) replace the phrase "Appeals Board" with "Anti Blight Committee;" and 4) including the anti-blight officer's stipend, mailing and copying costs, etc., in the examples of proper associated costs of enforcement and administration.	COMMITTEE APPROVED ITEM 6-1-0

Vinnie Freccia distributed a memo (see attached) explaining the changes to the Blight Ordinance. The Municipal Board of Appeals (the current body to which someone would appeal) is slated to be abolished, so they are proposing that if one fails to appear at the level one hearing, the Anti-Blight Committee would hear the formal appeal.

In response to a question of Rep. Adams, all notices of hearings/meetings are sent via certified mail, return receipt.

Rep Adams stated that too many departments seem to be involved, and he is concerned that the property owners may not be getting sufficient notice and opportunity to remedy problems. Paul Zeiss, the blight officer, explained that complaints come in via many city departments, including the Health Dept., Fire Dept., Police Dept. and Citizens Service Bureau. The property owners are given

enough time to resolve the problem; but when they ignore the situation, it is then referred for action under the blighted property ordinance. The anti-blight fines take precedent over mortgages; they are like liens and properties can be foreclosed upon.

In response to questions from Co-Chair DePina, Mr. Freccia explained there are two scenarios for a situation to end up at the Anti-Blight Committee: 1) failing to appear at a level one hearing; and 2) appealing the decision of the Level 1 hearing. Mr. Freccia added that he is not trying to eliminate a step - he just wants it to go to the Anti-Blight Committee.

Mr. Freccia added that the other change would be to allow expenses such as the blight officer's stipend, mailing and copying costs, etc to be paid out of the fines that are collected.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the item was approved in Committee by a vote of 6-1-0 (DePina, Loglisci, Figueroa, Caterbone, Coppola and Pia in favor; Adams opposed).

2. [PS28.040](#) PROPOSED ORDINANCE; for publication;
amending Chapter 70, Alarm Systems, to transfer
the appeals process to the Police Commission. **COMMITTEE
APPROVED
ITEM 6-1-0**

Upon motion duly made and seconded the item was approved in Committee by a vote of 6-1-0 (DePina, Loglisci, Figueroa, Caterbone, Coppola and Pia in favor; Rep. Adams opposed).

3. [PS28.041](#) PROPOSED ORDINANCE; for publication;
amending Chapter 167, numbering of buildings,
transferring the appeals process to the Police
Commission. **COMMITTEE
APPROVED
ITEM 6-2-0**

Rep. Coppola stated that numbering of buildings is important to both police and fire, and he is concerned that the Fire Commission is not being involved in this process. The Committee agreed to speak with the Mayor to see that the Fire Commission is included in this process.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the item was approved in Committee by a vote of 6-2-0 (Reps. DePina, Loglisci, Figueroa, Caterbone, Mallozzi and Pia in favor; Reps. Adams and Coppola opposed).

4. [PS28.035](#) REVIEW; fire service agreement between the City of
Stamford and Stamford Volunteer Fire Dept. **HELD IN
COMMITTEE
7-0-0**

5. [PS28.011](#) REVIEW; and presentation of additional details of regarding fire protection plans; including detailed financial analysis of costs of various plans.

**HELD IN
COMMITTEE
7-0-0**

Co-Chair made a motion to hold Items PS28.035 and PS28.011 until after the appointment of the New Public Safety and Health Director is approved. Said motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (DePina, Loglisci, Figueroa, Caterbone, Mallozzi, Pia, Adams and Coppola in favor).

As Secondary Committee

1. F28.252 REVIEW; reorganization of Smith House administration (i.e., city taking over management of the facility, establishing new management positions, etc.).

**NO ACTION
TAKEN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Loglisci, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)