



## ***State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives***

Mitchell Kaufman, Chair

Salvatore Gabriele, Vice Chair

# **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. Present were: Chair Kaufman and Committee Member Reps. Frazis, Gabriele, Heaphy and Summerville. Excused were Committee Member Reps. Lombardo and Sklover. Also present were Stephen Fischer, Christopher Tasik, Denis Patterson and Francis Brown of the Economic Development Commission.

Chair Kaufman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">SC28.012</a>	REVIEW; Mayor's Governance Task Force Report recommendation re: eliminating the Economic Development Commission.	<b>REPORT MADE</b>

Mr. Patterson read a statement presented by the members of the Economic Development Commission (see [attached](#)) in support of continuing the activities of the Commission. Mr. Patterson noted:

- The members of the Commission only learned about the Mayor's Governance Task Force recommendation when invited to the State & Commerce Committee meeting.
- Of the 3 Task Force members that recommended elimination of the Economic Development Commission, one is president of the DSSD and a board member of the Chamber of Commerce; another is not a resident of Stamford.
- The current commission operates in a non-partisan manner, with 3 republicans and 1 democrat. The 3 republicans recently elected the democrat to serve as chair.

- The Commission feels it has an important oversight role to play in coordinating the other entities in Stamford that are devoted to economic development.

The Committee held a discussion and generally felt that the Commission has a mission and that there are a wide range of activities in which it can participate. They discussed various areas of the City, noting that the Bull's Head area is often over-looked. The Commissioners also requested that the Board consider enhancing the duties and responsibility of the Commission.

The committee agreed to place a resolution on next month's agenda recommending that the Economic Development Commission continue (and recommending against abolishment). The committee will also consider redefining the role of this Commission, as it was created by ordinance.

2. [SC28.013](#) REVIEW; Mayor's Governance Task Force Report recommendations eliminating the Southwest Regional Tourism District. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Chair Kaufman distributed an email (see [attached](#)) from the Board's legislative aide that concluded there was no action for the Board to take with regard to the SW Regional Tourism District. This entity was abolished by the State and merged into another similar entity.

Rep. Summerville stated that this item is obviously improperly before the Board, and that no action is necessary.

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

Submitted by,

Mitchell Kaufman, Chair

*This meeting is on [video](#).*