



## ***Appointments Committee – Board of Representatives***

Denis W. Patterson, Chair    Ramya Shaw, Vice-Chair

# **Committee Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** *This meeting was held in the Democratic Caucus Room, and remotely on Teams*

The Appointments Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Shaw, and Committee Member Reps. Figueroa Grunberger, Summerville, and Walston. Also in attendance were Reps. Matheny, Morson, Sherwood, Stella, and Weinberg; Dana Lee, Law Department. Absent or excused were Reps. Baines Kuczynski, and Pavia.

Chair Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

| <b>Item No.</b> | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Committee Action</b>                   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 1. A31.214      | <b>Appointments Commission</b><br>Phillip Magalnick (I) <i>Repl. McKenzi-Reid Exp.</i><br>12/1/24<br>Stamford, CT 06907<br>Term Expires: 12/1/2027<br>6/4/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Caroline Simmons | <b>Committee Approved</b><br><b>4-0-2</b> |

A motion to approve Item 1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 4-0-2 (Reps. Patterson, Shaw, Grunberger, and Summerville in favor; Figueroa and Walston abstain)

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| 2. A31.215 | <b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b><br>Christopher Carozza (R) <i>Repl. Sedlak (R) Exp.</i><br>12/1/24 Stamford, CT 06903<br>Term Expires: 12/1/2027<br>6/4/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Caroline Simmons | <b>Committee Approved</b><br><b>4-1-1</b> |
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A motion to approve Item 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 4-1-1 (Reps. Patterson, Shaw, Figueroa, and Grunberger in favor; Rep. Walston opposed; Rep. Summerville abstain)

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| 3. A31.216 | <b>Patriotic and Special Events Commission</b><br>John Paul Marchetti (R) <i>Repl. Degruittola (R) Exp.</i><br>12/1/24<br>Stamford, CT<br>Term Expires: 12/1/2027<br>6/4/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Caroline Simmons | <b>Recommitted to Steering</b><br><b>5-0-1</b> |
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A motion to recommit Item 3 to steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-1 (Reps. Patterson, Shaw, Figueroa, Grunberger and Walston in favor; Rep. Summerville abstain)

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| 5. <a href="#">A31.207</a> | <b>ORDINANCE</b> for publication; Amending Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances, Authorities, Boards and Commissions, §6-123. - Duties and responsibilities (Appointments Commission)<br>04/09/225 – Submitted by Rep. Stella<br>4/29/2025 – Held by Committee<br>5/28/2025 – Failed by Committee 2-3-1<br><b>06/02/2025 – Recommended to Steering by Unanimous Voice Vote</b> | <b>Recommended to Steering<br/>6-0-0</b> |
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Rep. Stella introduced the proposed ordinance, citing transparency concerns and the need to formalize communication among the Mayor's Office, Appointments Commission, and Town Clerk.

Attorney Dana Lee from the Legal Department provided a legal opinion stating that portions of the proposed ordinance were unenforceable as they conflicted with the Charter, specifically:

- **Subsection E:** Requiring the mayor to appoint from the Commission's list or publicly explain why not — deemed an improper limitation on the mayor's exclusive appointment authority.
- **Subsection F:** Requiring political party nominees to be reviewed by the Commission — deemed an unauthorized procedural step.

Attorney Lee explained that while advisory recommendations from the Commission are permissible, mandates or requirements on mayoral discretion are not.

Rep. Sherwood proposed language changes to soften "shall" to "may" and reframe the requirements as preferences. However, Attorney Lee declined to evaluate the changes on the spot, noting a need for further legal analysis to determine whether they still created undue pressure or conflict.

Multiple representatives expressed frustration with the process and concern over delayed action on a long-standing issue. Ultimately, a motion was made to recommit the item pending further legal review.

A motion to recommit Item 3 to steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-1 (Reps. Patterson, Shaw, Figueroa, Grunberger, Summerville and Walston in favor;)

Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denis W. Patterson, Chair

This meeting is onVideo ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#))