



**Special Communications Committee –
Board of Representatives**

Bob Lion, Chair Nina Sherwood, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center, 888
Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Special Communications Committee met at the above date and time. In attendance were Chair Lion and Committee Member Reps. Sherwood, Matherne, Michelson, Moore, Morson, and Zelinsky. Excused was Committee Member Rep. Nabel. Also present was Asst. Chief Thomas Wuennemann and one member of the public.

Chair Lion called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
3. C30.006	REVIEW; Police Department Processes to Communicate with Residents. 04/04/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lion	REPORT MADE

¹Item # 3 was taken out of order and discussed first. Asst. Chief Weunnemann discussed the various social media platforms that the SPD is currently using to get information to the public.

- SPD currently has a Facebook page, a Twitter account, and a website.
- Facebook is used primarily for press releases and other news; Twitter is used primarily for traffic alerts; and the website is used primarily for forms and other information. (The permit process is widely used on the website).
- Social media has to be of benefit to the citizens.
- Most of the current social media is one way.
- The SPD would like to eventually use Twitter for alerting public to crimes.
- Best way to contact SPD for non-emergencies is 203-977-4444, which is answered 24/7.
- Ideally there needs to be a full-time position managing and monitoring social media.
- He will get a list to the Committee on which social media platform is best for which situations.

The committee discussed the item. It was discussed that it is important to reach all constituents regardless of which social media platform they use. There are many constituents who do not use any social media at all. There could be a liability issue if citizens do not realize they may not get a response from certain social media platforms.

¹ Video time stamp 00:00:45

1. C30.002 REVIEW; Review of current outreach processes **REPORT MADE
& HELD IN
COMMITTEE**
03/05/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lion
03/15/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee

² Committee members gave a brief overview of their discussions with City Departments and others involved in the committees on which they serve. The Committee then discussed this item:

- There needs to be an open line of communication between the City Departments and the respective BOR Committees.
- What is the best flow of information from the City to the citizens?
- Advance notice from the City Departments to the BOR regarding issues would be very helpful, so Representatives are better able to communicate about these issues with their constituents.
- Need to develop communication strategies.

³Due to the invited guest being unable to attend, a motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Lion, Sherwood, Matherne, Michelson, Moore, Morson, and Zelinsky in favor).

2. C30.005 REVIEW; IT Department communication capabilities **HELD IN
COMMITTEE**
including City website, email lists and alert options
04/02/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lion

⁴Due to the invited guest being unable to attend, a motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Lion, Sherwood, Matherne, Michelson, Moore, Morson and Zelinsky in favor).

4. C30.004 REVIEW; Discuss a communications allowance to **HELD IN
COMMITTEE**
assist Board of Representatives members to
communicate issue-oriented matters with
constituents, and propose draft rules governing the
appropriate use of said allowance.
03/06/18 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz, Lion,
Sherwood, Michelson, Matherne
03/15/18 – Held in Committee

⁵A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of by a vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Lion, Matherne, Michelson, Moore, Morson and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. Sherwood opposed).

² Video time stamp 01:18:14

³ Video Time Stamp 01:38:22

⁴ Video Time Stamp 01:37:40

⁵ Video time stamp 01:39:52

As a Secondary Committee:

- ⁶5. [LR30.036](#) APPROVAL; Amendment to [Board of Representatives Rules of Procedure](#) to add a public participation session.
03/07/18 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell, Sherwood, Zelinsky, Lutz, Aquila, Summerville and Matherne

**REPORT MADE
& HELD IN
COMMITTEE**

There was committee discussion about this item. Discussion included:

- Public participation is very important.
- Review of BOF and BOE current rules regarding public speaking.
- Concerns of both not enough time and too much time for allowing public to speak before meetings.
- Public speaking would be limited to items on that evening's agenda.
- Is the BOR Board Meeting the best time for public speaking?
- Possibly do a trial period.
- Committee to review video/minutes of the L&R Committee discussion on the item.
- More time is needed to evaluate.
- Committee will meet on May 7th at 6:00pm to further discuss and vote on item.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to hold this item and continue it at the Communications Committee Meeting on May 7, 2018 at 6:00pm by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Lion, Sherwood, Matherne, Michelson, Moore, Morson and Zelinsky in favor).

Chair Lion adjourned this meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lion, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

⁶ Video Time Stamp 01:42:10