



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

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

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

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Lee and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Lion, Miller, Pia and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Jacobson and Nabel. Also present were Reps. Cottrell, Matherne, Sherwood and Stella; and Mike Toma, Law Department.

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

| <b>Item No.</b>             | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Committee Action</b> |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1. <a href="#">LR30.058</a> | ORDINANCE for publication; Creating a Special Revenue Fund (“Lockbox”) for School Building Projects.<br>01/25/19 – Submitted by Pres. Quinones and Reps. Lee, Jacobson, Fedeli, Pia, Kolenberg, Di Costanzo, Stella, de la Cruz, Cottrell and Nabel<br>02/19/19 – Held by Committee 8-0-0<br>03/19/19 – Held by Committee, as amended, 7-0-0 | <b>HELD 6-0-0</b>       |

Committee members discussed the edits proposed by Chair Lee. Mr. Toma stated that he saw no legal issues with the proposed changes. Committee members discussed getting input from Mr. Fountain regarding 1) limiting the use of the funds to finance only long-term capital projects and 2) how the funds would be expended.

A motion to hold Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Lion, Miller, Pia and Zelinsky in favor).

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|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 2. <a href="#">LR30.046</a> | REVIEW; Exterior Lighting Regulations<br>07/11/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lion<br>08/02/18 – Held in Public Safety Committee<br>10/09/18 – Moved from Public Safety Committee<br>10/16/18 – Held in Committee 6-0-0<br>11/29/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee 5-0-0<br>12/18/18 – Held by Committee 6-0-0<br>01/22/19 – Held by Committee 8-0-0<br>02/19/19 – Held by Committee 8-0-0<br>03/11/19 – Held at Steering | <b>HELD 6-0-0</b> |
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**Secondary Committee: Public Safety & Health**

A motion to hold Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Lion, Miller, Pia and Zelinsky in favor).

3. [LR30.063](#) APPROVAL; Amendment of the Rules of the Board Section IV.E.3.a.iii to Limit Public Comment to Items on the Agenda. **APPROVED, AS AMENDED 5-1-0**  
04/01/19 - Submitted by Reps. Pia, Fedeli, Michelson and Zelinsky

Committee members discussed whether or not to limit the public comment period to agenda items and, if so, whether or not to limit to current agenda items only. Committee members noted that many speakers address items the Board has no control over.

A motion to amend Item No. 3 to add the word “current” before “agenda” was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-1-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Miller, Pia and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. Lion opposed).

A motion to approve Item No. 3, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-1-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Miller, Pia and Zelinsky in favor; Rep. Lion opposed).

4. [LR30.064](#) APPROVAL; Amendment of the Rules of the Board to Add New Section III.C.11, Requiring Submissions of Contracts, Resolutions or Ordinances 36 hours prior to a Committee Meeting. **HELD 6-0-0**  
04/03/19 - Submitted by Reps. Stella, Pratt, and Zelinsky

Committee members discussed the proposed 36 hour limitation as follows:

- The current language would permit items to be provided on a weekend for a Monday meeting
- Should this restriction only apply to committee meetings
- Should it apply to all parties or only Board members and the administration?
- Couldn't a committee just vote to hold an item if information is provided too late?
- This could be fraught with unintended consequences, since actions sometimes need to be taken within time constraints
- The Board might get information in a more timely manner if this were enacted
- Should this apply to all information provided to committees?
- How would this work? Would the committee have to vote to take up the item? Would the newly submitted information just not be considered? If so, how would that work with an amendment to a contract before the committee?
- Should discussion about why the information is late be permitted?
- Is this an automatic hold or a rejection?
- The language doesn't allow a mechanism for substantive changes
- The language should not be limited to ordinances, resolutions and contracts; everyone should be held to the same standard
- Committee chairs can hold items where material is provided too late

Chair Lee summarized the questions regarding this proposed rule change as follows:

- The threshold issue – whether or not to do this at all
- Timing issues – Is 36 hours appropriate? How should this rule apply for weekends?
- Should the restriction only apply to committee meetings or also the Board meetings?

- Should this apply only to the City and Representatives or should it apply to any interested party?
- Should it apply to something other than ordinances, resolutions and contracts?
- Should the default position be an automatic hold? If so, must the Committee vote on it?
- Does this only apply to the final form of a contract, ordinance or resolution?

A motion to hold Item No. 4 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Lion, Miller, Pia and Zelinsky in favor).

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Lee, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).