



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Phil Berns, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting will be held remotely.*

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger and Committee Member Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort. Also in attendance were Reps. Camporeale, de la Cruz, Morson, Summerville, and Walston; Dana Lee, City Attorney; Burt Rosenberg, City Attorney; Amber Schmidt, New England Zero Waste Specialist, Clean Water Action; and Sam Sjoberg, Senior Associate, Related Affordable Companies; and members of the public. Absent or excused were Rep. Pierre-Louis.

Chair Berns called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

| Item No. | Description | Invitee(s) or Designees |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. LR31.091 | ORDINANCE for discussion; on banning the sale, provision, and distribution of single use plastic products in food and beverage establishments. 01/06/25 – Submitted by Reps. Camporeale, Cottrell, de la Cruz, Sherwood, and Ley 01/28/25 – Recommended to Steering 02/25/25 – Recommended to Steering | RECOMMITTED 7-0-0 |

Rep. Camporeale presented item to the committee, speaking about the City's test with some compostable single use materials. Attorney Lee then opened floor to Ms. Schmidt, who gave additional information about single use items and various public education and legislation in other municipalities.

A motion to recommit Item #1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Chair Berns, Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

2. [LR31.092](#) RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving an Amended and Restated Lease for the Smith House Skilled Nursing Facility and Scofield Manor The Residential Care Home at 88 Rock Rimmon Road and 614 Scofieldtown Road, City of Stamford, State of Connecticut.
 01/09/25 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons
 01/28/25 – Approved by the Planning Board 5-0-0
 02/13/25 – To be Considered by the Board of Finance
02/13/25 – Board of Finance Held item 6-0-0
02/25/25 – Recommitted to Steering **RECOMMENDED 8-0-0**

A motion to recommit Item #2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Blank, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

3. [LR31.093](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Concerning a Tax Abatement Agreement with Augustus Manor Associates Limited Partnership and Augustus Manor Preservation, L.P., for 101 Main Street, Stamford, CT.
 01/27/25 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons **APPROVED 8-0-0**

Attorney Rosenberg and Mr. Sjoberg presented the item. Mr. Sjoberg outlined the project and the apartment complex's history as a 105 unit affordable housing development for low income seniors and those on permanent disability. He outlined the plan for Related Affordable to submit for tax abatements and for additional financing with CHFA for the 4% tax credit.

Rep. Cottrell asked for documents including the 40-year deed restriction to protect the current residents as a prior affordable housing development (Coleman Tower) had problems for the residents once approved. Attorney Rosenberg asked if a conditional approval could be considered while waiting for the documents from Mr. Sjoberg due to the tight timelines for Related Affordable to get their completed CHFA application in for funding. Rep. Sherwood reminded committee of a similar project given conditional approval by the Board of Finance in the past and how the Board was left with no recourse when the conditions were not met.

Mr. Sjoberg stated that Reliable Affordable has been in low income housing development since 1970 and has never taken even 1 unit off of affordable housing status since day 1, as they work with several private and government agencies that would stop doing business with them if they did. He also stated he would send the committee prior project data and copies/partial copies as available of documents pertaining to the Augustus Manor project (*the partial copies being what is currently in existence for the CHFA 4% tax credit application).

A motion to pass Item #3 for publication was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Blank, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

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| 4. LR31.094 | RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving a proposed contract for sale and First (only) amendment for the purchase and renovation of the YMCA at 10 Bell Street, Stamford, CT for use as a recreation center. 01/22/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Simmons 02/11/25 – To be considered by the Planning Board 02/13/25 – To be Considered by the Board of Finance 02/13/25 – Board of Finance Held item 6-0-0 | NO ACTION TAKEN |
| 5. LR31.072 | ORDINANCE for publication; Regulating the Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Stores 02/07/24 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood and Camporeale 02/27/24 – Held by Committee 04/30/24 – Held by Committee 05/13/24 – Moved to Pending | APPROVED 8-0-0 |

Rep. Sherwood gave a brief overview of the history of item and noted the reason it was back on the agenda: the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) currently has House Bill No. 6832, AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF DOGS, CATS AND RABBITS IN PET SHOPS, in front of their Planning and Development Committee. Reintroducing this ordinance and holding a public hearing for it would help support the bill in process at the CGA. Attorney Toma outlined the updates to the draft ordinance’s language sent to the committee on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 and added to the file.

A motion to pass Item #5 for publication was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice-Chair Boeger, Reps. Cottrell, Blank, Fedeli, Matheny, Sherwood, and Vandervoort in favor).

Chair Berns adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Berns, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).