



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Gloria DePina, Chair

Matthew Quinones, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2014

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford CT

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair DePina, Vice Chair Quinones and Committee Member Reps. Caterbone, Coppola, Kolenberg, Moore and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Adams and Giraldo. Also present were Reps. Cerasoli, DeLuca and McMullen; Assistant Chief Matheny, Stamford Police Department; Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations; Kathryn Emmett, Corporation Counsel.

Chair DePina called the meeting to order at 7:04.

| Item No. | Description | Committee Action |
|---|--|--|
| 1. PS29.016 | ORDINANCE, for publication; Proposed change to Sec. 164-5, Noise - Restrictions on Sunday demolitions 06/04/14 – Submitted by Reps. Cerasoli & Coppola 06/09/14 – Held at Steering | Held in Committee |
| A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. | | |
| 2. PS29.017 | ORDINANCE, for publication; Proposed change to Sec. 164-5, Noise - Revision to definition of Nighttime hours. 06/04/14 – Submitted by Reps. Cerasoli & Coppola 06/09/14 – Held at Steering | Held in Committee |
| A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. | | |
| ¹ 4. PS29.020 | REVIEW; Status of Police Headquarters Building. 07/10/14 – Submitted by President Skigen, Reps. Cerasoli, Fedeli and Zelinsky | Report Made & Held in Committee |

The Committee next considered Item No. 4. Chief Matheny reported that they are waiting to hear back from Engineering about their options regarding the asbestos in the building. There are currently 4 options:

- encapsulating the asbestos

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:01:25

- Remediating the building completely
- tearing down and rebuilding a new building where the garage is (there is a current design for this)
- moving to an existing building

Mr. Orgera stated that the asbestos would need to be abated prior to selling the building. The current building was built in 1953.

Committee members discussed with Mr. Orgera and Chiethe need for a new building:

- Neighboring communities have new stations
- Not taking a “band-aid” approach
- The current building is too small
- There is no timetable
- Encapsulating would cost several million dollars
- The committee needs to hear the recommendations from Engineering in order to make a recommendation

²³. PS29.019 REVIEW; Use of blight ordinance funds to clean up **Report Made**
 125 High Clear Drive in accordance with Sec. 146-50,
 which permits the Director of Operations to clean
 blighted property.
 7/7/14 – Submitted by Reps. DeLuca and Franzetti

Ms. Emmett explained that this property has been declared a blight, there is a blight lien on the property, it is in foreclosure and there is a foreclosure sale set for November 8th. The property has been cleaned up somewhat.

She noted that the Blight Ordinance does permit the Director of Operations to clean up the property, but the Law Department has concerns about liability issues raised by cleaning up a blighted property, either because of safety issues or the lack of owner’s consent. (When the City has gone in, there has been a serious public safety issue.)

In this instance, the City sought consent from the Owner to go onto the property to clean it up, but was unable to do so. She is hopeful that it will be remediated quickly after the sale. The blight lien is a tip-off to the new owner that the property needs to be cleaned up.

The Committee discussed whether the ordinance needs to be amended to give the City more ability to go in and clean up blight.

- Questions raised by the current ordinance include: does the owner have the right to keep the City off the property; does the City have the right to go onto the property, does the Owner have a right or ability to challenge this; and what does the City have to do with valuable items it removes from the property.
- The Board of Representatives cannot require the Operations Department to go in to clean up a property.
- What does clean-up mean
- A new item will be introduced at Steering to revise the ordinance

² Video Time Stamp 00:13:24

- ³5. [PS29.021](#) RESOLUTION; to accept a gift/donation of \$283,000 for the Animal Shelter. **Approved 7-0-0**
09/03/14 –Submitted by David Yanik

Secondary Committee – Fiscal Committee

Ms. Emmett explained that the bequest specifies that the money be used for the care of animals at the animal control center. The City will follow this stipulation by having the funds in a restricted account that will be available only for that purpose and a process will be set up for appropriations from this fund.

A motion to approve this Resolution was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote. (Reps. DePina, Quinones, Caterbone, Coppola, Kolenberg, Moore and Zelinsky in favor.)

Chair DePina adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria DePina, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).