



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, March 25, 2019

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Giordano, Kolenberg, Lutz, Matherne, McMullen and Sherwood. Absent or excused was Rep. Pratt. Also present was Rep. Roqueta; Dr. Jennifer Calder and Deborah Miller, Health Dept.; Chief Trevor Roach and Asst. Chief Miguel Robles, Fire Dept.; Michael Toma, Law Dept; Jeremy Stein, CT Against Gun Violence; and several members of the public.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. <u>PS30.032</u>	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption;</u> Banning of Ghost Guns & 3D Print Firearms. 11/08/18 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Pratt, Morson, Graziosi, Cottrell and Roqueta 11/29/18 – Held in Committee 6-0-1 12/10/18 – Moved to Pending 03/04/19 – Approved by Committee 6-0-0	Approved 7-1-0

Chair Stella opened the public hearing.

Mr. Stein explained that this is forward thinking. As gun laws are strengthened, the efforts to bypass those laws have also strengthened. It is important for municipalities to pass these types of ordinances. There is currently a proposed bill on the State level regarding banning ghost guns.

Several members of the public spoke, all in favor of the ordinance. The public hearing was then closed.

Rep. McMullen stated that he does not think this ordinance is within the purview of a municipal government to consider a vote on, and he will therefore be voting against it.

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:00:45

There was a brief discussion of this item.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-1-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Giordano, Kolenberg, Lutz, Matherne, and Sherwood in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed).

- ²2. [PS30.029](#) RESOLUTION and public hearing; Setting Fees for Use of Public Scale and for Weighing and Measuring Device License. **Held 4-0-1**
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder
11/13/18 – Moved to Pending
01/31/19 – Approved by Committee 3-1-2

Chair Stella opened the public hearing. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Dr. Calder, Ms. Miller and the Committee discussed this item.

- Rep. Sherwood stated that she would like to see the taxi fees remain the same at \$35.00. The local economy suffers because of companies like Uber and Lyft, yet ride-sharing services are unregulated in Stamford.
- With ride-sharing services a patron knows the exact cost of the ride before confirming the service. When getting in a taxi, a patron has no idea how much the ride will cost until arriving at their destination.
- Taxi regulations and properly working meters protect the patrons.
- The fees have not been raised since 1996.
- The fees are a fair cost for taxi companies to do business with the City.
- Inspections are done annually.
- If the fees are not raised, it will not prevent the inspections from continuing.
- The Health Dept. will find out for the Committee how long an inspection takes.

A motion to hold this item in order to get more information was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-0-1 (Reps. Stella, Giordano, Lutz, and Matherne in favor; Rep. Sherwood abstaining).

- ³5. PS30.039 REVIEW; Possibility of Creation of Position of Fire Safety Officer. **Report Made**
02/06/19 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Pratt

This item was taken up out of order. Chief Roach explained the importance of this position.

- A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) was created in the 1990's and the sole purpose is to keep firefighters safe during a call.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:22:25

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:41:28

- A Fire Safety Officer would oversee the RIT team and everyone on site, making sure things are being done correctly thus keeping injuries to a minimum.
- Currently all first-line supervisors are trained and certified by the State as safety officers.
- The RIT team has a safety officer who is the initial officer on every fire scene.
- Safety officers go to all fire and technical rescue calls.
- Stamford is a growing city and changes need to be made to meet that growth in order to keep both residents and firefighters safe.

3. [PS30.024](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Chapter 159 **Held 5-0-0**
of the Code of Ordinances, Massage Establishments,
Section 159-4 Inspections.
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder
11/13/18 – Moved to Pending
4. [PS30.023](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; **Held 5-0-0**
Concerning Massage Therapy Establishment
Licensing and Inspections Fees.
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder
11/13/18 – Moved to Pending

⁴A motion to hold items #3 and #4 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Giordano, Lutz, Matherne and Sherwood in favor).

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).