



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2019

Time: 6:30 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 Stella, Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Matherne, McMullen and Sherwood. Absent or excused were Reps. Giordano, Kolenberg, Lutz and Pratt. Also present were Rep. John Zelinsky; Chief Trevor Roach; Captain David Davis and Kyle Houser, Local 786 Firefighters Union; Kathryn Emmett, Law Dept; Dr. Jennifer Calder and Deborah Miller, Health Dept.; and Ted Jankowski, Director Public Safety, Health & Welfare.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. PS30.043	REVIEW; Possible Requirement of Commercial and Industrial Buildings and Structures that Utilize Truss Type Construction to be Marked by a Sign or Symbol That Informs People Conducting Fire Control and Other Emergency Operations of the Existence of Truss Construction. 06/05/19 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Pratt	Held 4-0-1

There was discussion on this item.

- Truss construction is very dangerous during a fire.
- A marker indicating a truss building is important, but not always effective. The markers often cannot be seen when entering a building on fire.
- There needs to be a centralized system in place that ties in all departments so firefighters know what kind of a building they are entering before getting there.
- ViewPermit is used for permitting, but the cloud needs to have all departments connected (Fire, Police, Health, Zoning, Building, etc.).
- Real time permit and zoning information is crucial, and the old paperwork needs to be digitized before it disappears.
- Illegal apartments and homes with DIY work are dangerous.
- The SFD will return to the Committee in 3-4 months to give an update.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:43

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

- ²6. PS30.044 REVIEW; Closing of the Woodside Fire Station due to Mold. **Report Made**
09/04/19 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Pratt, Sherwood, Giordano and Zelinsky

This item was taken up out of order and there was discussion.

- The process of moving back into the building was very fast.
- There is currently one company in, and the second company will be back in within two weeks.
- The 2nd floor is complete and the first floor will be done within two weeks.
- The flooring did not have mold, but the old carpet is being replaced with hard vinyl flooring.
- Woodside is in a highly strategic location in the center of the City, so it was important to move quickly to re-open.

- ³2. [PS30.029](#) RESOLUTION; Setting Fees for Use of Public Scale and for Weighing and Measuring Device License. **Approved as Amended 4-1-0**
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder
11/13/18 – Moved to Pending
01/31/19 – Approved by Committee 3-1-2
03/25/19 – Public Hearing Held & Held by Committee 4-0-1
05/30/19 – Held by Committee 7-0-0

There was discussion on this item.

- These fees have not increased since 1996.
- The taxi companies are struggling because of competition from Uber and Lyft, which have no regulations. Taxi companies should not have to endure increased costs for regulations.
- Annual inspections take 10-15 minutes per meter.
- In the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 there were 122 taxis inspected.
- A \$35.00 license fee does not recover the costs to the City for inspection; a \$50.00 would bring it closer to breaking even.
- The exams are performed at the taxi company location.
- Most meters pass, but if there is a fail, there is no cost for the re-inspection.

A motion to amend the proposed resolution to keep the Taxi Cab Meter license fee at the current \$35.00 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne, McMullen and Sherwood in favor).

² Video Time Stamp: 00:30:30

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:44:10

A motion to approve the resolution as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-1-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne and Sherwood in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed).

- ⁴3. [PS30.024](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Chapter 159 of the Code of Ordinances, Massage Establishments, Section 159-4 Inspections. **Approved as Amended 5-0-0**
- 11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder
11/13/18 – Moved to Pending
03/25/19 – Held by Committee 5-0-0
05/30/19 – Held by Committee 7-0-0

There was discussion on this item.

- There needs to be an ordinance in place that allows the Health Dept. to refuse a permit if there are overdue fees.
- The funds collected will allow the Health Dept. to better service the public, by getting a better handle on overdue fines and permits, and be able to review on a quarterly basis.
- There are approximately \$800,000 in overdue fees owed to the Health Dept.

A motion to amend Sec. 159-4.C to read as follows was made seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne, McMullen and Sherwood in favor).

“The Health Department shall not issue a new or renewal permit unless there are no unpaid fines, penalties, or fees which are due to the Department of Health and payable by the applicant or permittee”.

A motion to approve this item as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne, McMullen and Sherwood in favor).

- ⁵4. [PS30.023](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Concerning Massage Therapy Establishment Licensing and Inspections Fees. **Approved as Amended 4-1-0**
- 11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder
11/13/18 – Moved to Pending
03/25/19 – Held by Committee 5-0-0
05/30/19 – Held by Committee 7-0-0

There was discussion on this item.

- Dr. Calder reviewed the [attached](#) Massage Establishment Fee spreadsheet.
- There is an extensive process for licensing massage establishments due to the historical nature of the businesses having many violations.
- Licensing includes background checks, fingerprinting, and education.
- Pre-Operational Plan Review Inspections are very important because many massage establishments make modifications after the Plan Review. This in turn makes the Additional Pre-Operational Plan Reviews Inspection necessary.
- A permit to operate must be renewed annually.

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 01:09:26

⁵ Video Time Stamp: 01:43:09

A motion to amend the proposed resolution to keep the Pre-Operational Plan Review Inspection fee at the current \$25.00 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne, McMullen and Sherwood in favor).

A motion to bring both the Pre-Operational Plan Review Inspection fee and the Additional Pre-Operational Inspection fee to zero dollars was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 1-2-2 (Rep. Matherne in favor; Reps. Morson and McMullen opposed; Reps. Stella and Sherwood abstaining).

A motion to approve this item as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-1-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne and Sherwood in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed).

- ⁶5. [PS30.027](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Chapter 146, **Held 5-0-0**
Article II of the Code of Ordinances, Apartments,
Multiple Dwellings, Rooming Houses and Hotels,
Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 132-5.1- Fees.
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder
11/13/18 – Moved to Pending

There was discussion on this item.

- The proposed changes include inspection for three-unit dwellings. Many of these units are older and have been found unsafe in prior inspections. As of 2017-2018 year, there were approximately 1,908 three-unit dwellings.
- This ordinance does not have an enforcement component and that needs to change for the safety of residents. Some components of the ordinance rely on the landlord adhering to the honor system.
- The proposed changes allow for the Health Dept. to revoke a license that has been expired for six months or more, and allows a placard put on the building stating it is not safe for habitation.
- Mr. Jankowski and Dr. Calder are working on a further revised ordinance that will be clearer and more enforceable. They will return to the committee with this revised ordinance.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne, McMullen and Sherwood in favor).

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

⁶ Video Time Stamp: 02:26:17