



## ***Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives***

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, January 28, 2021

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Place:** Meeting was held remotely

The Public Safety & Health Committee met indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood. Also present were Reps. Adams and Jacobson; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Health, Safety and Welfare; Dr. Jennifer Calder, Director of Health; Kathryn Emmett, Burt Rosenberg, and Michael Toma, Law Dept.; Ralph Blessing, Land Bureau Chief; Tom Madden, Director of Economic Development; Luke Buttenwieser, Traffic Engineering; State Rep. David Michel; and two members of the public.

Vice Chair Morson called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. PS30.083	ORDINANCE for publication; Amendment to <a href="#">Chapter 201</a> of the Code of Ordinances, Regulation of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System ("MS4"). 12/09/20 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Stella, and Zelinsky 12/14/20 – Held at Steering	<b>Held</b>
Item #1 was held.		
<sup>1</sup> 2. PS30.084	REVIEW; Status of Covid-19 Vaccine Distribution. 01/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Pratt, Curtis, Lee, and Zelinsky	<b>Report Made</b>

Dr. Calder and Mr. Jankowski reviewed Item #2 and there was discussion.

As of today the numbers of vaccines administered is as follows:

- Stamford Hospital – 12,000 which include 1,600 employees
- City of Stamford – 1,380: 1,100 were first doses and the rest were second doses provided to first responders and residents in group 1A.
- Community Health Center at Fifth Street – 1,800

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:00:40

- Currently the City is working on vaccines for residents 75 years of age and older.
- The biggest challenge is not knowing how many doses will be received each week from the State. Some weeks the exact doses requested are received, yet this week only one third of the requested doses were received. This causes appointments to be cancelled not only in Stamford but throughout the State.
- VAMS (Vaccine Administration Management System) is the system the City initially had to use but it proved difficult because it relied on people being computer literate and having access to the internet, which many older residents do not have. Additionally the City website had online registering, which 7,000 residents used, but this also required assistance for older adults without internet access. The State has allowed Stamford to move away from VAMS.
- The City reached out to the Stamford Senior Center which has been extremely helpful fielding calls for information and giving assistance with signing up online.
- It takes one minute, 30 seconds to give the vaccine after the registration process.
- The Health Department would ultimately like to move to a “mega-site”.
- CERT has been utilized for crowd control.
- The State has a new number for vaccine appointments thru the 211 program, which is 877-918-2224. Residents can also call Stamford Hospital at 203-276-7300.
- The Health Department has now partnered with Stamford Hospital to administer the vaccines.
- The second doses can be a scheduling problem.
- Stamford Hospital currently has more than enough staff and volunteers ready to vaccinate, including many school nurses working after hours, but more will most likely be needed as eventually more vaccines come in each week.
- It was not a good start but the system is definitely getting better.

<sup>24</sup>. PS30.086      REVIEW; Prohibiting Protestors or Demonstrators      **Report Made**  
 from Carrying Shields, and Kevlar® Body Armor and  
 Kevlar® Helmets.  
 01/11/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis and  
 Pratt

A motion to take up Item #4 out of order was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Morson, Stella, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor).

Chair Stella discussed his reasons for putting this on the Agenda. As has been seen in recent events, there are often infiltrators with weapons among the peaceful protestors. Citizens have the right to be able to peacefully demonstrate and protest without fear of being hurt.

Ms. Emmett and Mr. Toma explained the State statutes. The current statutes criminalize purchasing and wearing of body armor by convicted felons. Therefore this in turn authorizes non-felons to wear it. It would be very difficult for Stamford to have the ability to enforce a resolution or ordinance of this nature as it would be inconsistent to the State

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:48:00

statute. There needs to be evidence supporting that carry shields and wearing armor is a public safety problem.

There was discussion:

- There are constitutionality issues with a resolution such as this.
- Any object a citizen is carrying can be a weapon if it is used as a weapon.
- Does the BOR have the right to tell people what they can and cannot carry on the street?
- Sometimes bystanders carry objects to protect themselves in case of violence.
- The BOR supported the protestors in Thailand over similar issues.
- Is this type of legislation governmental over-reaching?
- This type of resolution may attract the very thing it aims to protect against.
- The intent of this resolution is good, but there should be another way to approach this issue.

<sup>3</sup>3. PS30.085      REVIEW; 5G Installation Throughout the City.      **Report Made**  
01/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Pratt, Curtis,      **& Held 7-2-0**  
and Sherwood

Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Blessing, and Mr. Madden reviewed this issue and there was discussion.

- The Federal Telecommunications Act pre-empts both state and local regulations relating to 5G deployment, and specifically excludes matters of regulating health and safety.
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order of September 26, 2018 sets the rules and limits for installation of 5G equipment. Federal agencies have not made any findings that exposure to cell radiation poses health risks.
- There are three different types of installations:
  - City poles – There are none in Stamford right now as there are no regulations or agreements yet.
  - Utility poles - It is not known how many 5G are installed in Stamford. This process is overseen by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.
  - Buildings – These are somewhat regulated by Zoning Dept., but only regarding height, etc.
- New Hampshire currently has a moratorium on 5G installation and it is the only government agency to do a comprehensive study, dated November 21, 2020.
- Telecommunications companies need a clear line of site on utility poles so that there is no obstruction by buildings. The companies have stated in forums that they will most likely be using a longer wave of 5G that is similar to 4G technology. The 5G technology will most likely be used in high density downtown areas.

The Committee requested a list of all of the 5G cell towers in Stamford. Mr. Blessing stated it will take a while to get this compiled as there is a lot of information and a shortage of staff, but he will get this information to the BOR as soon as possible.

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<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp: 01:31:34

A motion to allow State Rep. Michel to speak on Item #3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-1-0 (Reps. Morson, Stella, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed).

Rep. Michel stated that while he is not an expert on the issue, he has spoken to experts regarding 5G. The higher the frequency the smaller the wave, and the more energy used. For now the 5G network is not operating on the higher frequency, but that will come later. He will send the Committee information he has gathered.

A motion to hold Item #3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-2-0 (Reps. Morson, Stella, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor; Reps. McMullen and Palomba opposed).

Vice Chair Morson adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Morson, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).