



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, February 25, 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, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood. Absent was Rep. McMullen. Also present were Reps. Adams; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Health, Safety and Welfare; Dr. Jennifer Calder, Director of Health; Raquelle Early, Health Dept.; Burt Rosenberg, and Michael Toma, Law Dept.; Chief Timothy Shaw, Police Dept.; and three members of the public.

Vice Chair Morson called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Item No.	Descriptions	Committee Action
11. PS30.083	ORDINANCE for publication; Amendment to Chapter 201 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 01/28/21 – Held by Committee	Held 6-0-0

A motion to hold Item #1 pending a legal opinion was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Matherne, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor).

² 2. PS30.085	REVIEW; 5G Installation Throughout the City. 01/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Pratt, Curtis, and Sherwood 01/28/21 – Report Made & Held 7-2-0	Held 6-1-0
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Mr. Rosenberg reviewed this item and there was discussion.

- The Telecommunications Act is a federal act. State and local governments are pre-empted from legislating on matters regarding radio frequency emissions.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:55

² Video Time Stamp: 00:04:37

- Municipalities are notified of all installations, but there is nothing that can be done about the installations unless there are health concerns.
- If there is a basis for health concerns relating to radiation, this falls under the prohibitions of the FCC Act.
- The only control municipalities have is over installations on utility poles, because third parties are allowed to place the equipment.
- Even if municipalities have no power over most installations, the public should be made aware of all of them, and Representatives should be made aware of installations in their districts.
- The Committee would like Land Use Bureau Chief Ralph Blessing to attend a future meeting to explain this item in more detail.

A motion to hold Item #2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor; Rep. Palomba opposed).

- ³³. [PS30.088](#) RESOLUTION; Requiring Gun Owners to Produce Their Licenses When Asked by Law Enforcement Officers.
01/25/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Pratt and Curtis and Mayor Martin **Approved 6-0-2**

Mr. Toma and Chief Shaw reviewed this item and there was discussion.

- State law allows for open carry for persons with permits. State law prevents officers from asking to show proof of a license unless they have a reasonable suspicion of a crime.
- Most requests for showing a gun license originate from a phone call from a member of the public. However the phone call is not enough, the officer must have suspicion of a crime.
- If a phone call is enough to require showing identification to confirm legal-age drinking, a phone should be enough to require producing a gun license.
- Hunters are required to produce their licenses whenever asked.
- This has previously failed in the State Legislature due to numerous concerns including racial profiling, and 2nd Amendment and 4th Amendment rights.
- There is no penalty for refusal to show a gun license. It can sometimes result in a breach of peace charge, but not always.
- Most gun owners do not display their guns, because they are aware of the concern it causes to the public.
- The State needs to work on this law as a tool for law enforcement officers.
- If this were to pass as a State law, all police departments are not necessarily as responsible as Stamford, and it could result in racial profiling in other towns.

A motion to approve Item #3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-2 (Reps. Morson, Stella, Curtis, Giordano, Palomba, and Sandford in favor; Reps. Matherne and Sherwood abstaining).

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:17:22

- ⁴4. PS30.087 REVIEW; Prohibiting the Sale of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products to Persons Under Age Twenty-One, Enforcement Issues, and Possible Additional Municipal Restrictions. **Report Made**
02/03/21 – Submitted by Rep. Adams

Mr. Toma reviewed this item and there was discussion.

- There is not much more that Stamford can do as the State has comprehensive and thorough laws prohibiting the sale of these products for persons under 21 years of age.
- The only State statute that allows municipalities to have oversight is regarding cigarette vending machines. These are only allowed in areas that do not allow persons under 21 years of age, such as a bar. Stamford could pass an ordinance stating that cigarette vending machines are not allowed in any business.
- There are both criminal and civil laws pertaining to how cigarettes, nicotine, and vaping products are sold.
- Possession of these products is a secondary issue to the sale of the products.
- There is a State statute that directs the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to conduct unannounced compliance checks using under-age persons to attempt to buy these products in stores.

- ⁵5. PS30.089 REVIEW: Status of FY 2020-21 Budget and Potential Impacts for 2021-22 budget **Report Made**
02/03/21 -Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

Dr. Calder and Mr. Jankowski reviewed this item.

- For FY 2020/2021 the Health Department has remained within the budget.
- COVID expenses were either charged to crisis funds from the State, or will be reimbursed from the State via FEMA and/or the CARES Act.
- For FY 2021/2022 the pandemic has highlighted gaps in the Health Department.
- The primary shortage is with nurses. There were not enough nurses to provide coverage this past year. There are open 42-week positions (school nurses) that the Department is seeking to convert to 52-week positions, to provide summer coverage elsewhere in the City when schools are not in session.
- The Department is seeking to provide nursing coverage in previously unsupported programs such as education, care plans, and summer programs.
- Other staffing shortages are being addressed as well.

Vice Chair Morson adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Morson, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 00:51:55

⁵ Video Time Stamp: 01:03:23