



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

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

# **Committee Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, August 26, 2021  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** This meeting was held remotely.

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Curtis, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford and Sherwood. Rep. Giordano was excused. Also present were Reps. Adams, and de la Cruz; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare; Cynthia Anger and Dana Lee, Law Department; Tyler Theder, Operations; James Ritchie, NRA Instructor; and Trevor Roach, Fire Chief.

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

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">PS30.088</a>	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 02/25/21 – Approved by Committee, 6-0-2 03/01/21 – Held by Full Board 03/08/21 – Moved to Pending <b>07/29/21 – Public Hearing Held &amp; Held by Committee 4-3-1</b>	<b>Committee Approved 6-1-1</b>

James Ritchie, NRA instructor, stated that this is a fourth amendment issue. There are currently 9 open court cases fighting against providing gun permits to law enforcement. Recently in the State of Connecticut, there's a new case with the same claim. Many believe this is a public safety issue, but nowhere in the Constitution, can you deny someone their constitutional right to open carry. If a person is carrying a gun, it is not considered to be reasonable suspicion of a crime. Stamford has 23,000 registered gun owners. This bill has been bought up in the state and has been turned because it is unconstitutional. Other possible solutions to stop gun violence is education.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Concerns with illegal gun owners and underage use of guns
- No law is being passed just resolution to encourage a bill to be passed in support of this item
- Would like the State to look into this item in more depth because there are valid points to be made on both sides of the argument

- 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.
- This has previously failed in the State Legislature due to numerous concerns including racial profiling, and 2nd Amendment and 4th Amendment rights.

Rep. McMullen encourages his colleges to vote against this item because he feels it would be wasting State representatives time since this bill has been turned down several times previously by the State.

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

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| 2. 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.<br>06/05/19 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Pratt<br>09/26/19 – Held by Committee 4-0-1<br>10/15/19 – Held at Steering<br>12/09/19 – Held at Steering<br>01/13/20 – Held at Steering<br>02/27/20 – Held by Committee<br>08/10/20 – Moved to Pending<br><b>07/29/21 – Held by Committee 8-0-0</b> | <b>Report Made</b> |
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Mr. Jankowski and Fire Chief Roach discussed the following with the Committee:

- In the process of formerly defining what we're considering Critical Information dispatch
- In the past they put up information related to certain hazardous or dangerous conditions right into the CAD system and as units responded, they were able to get that message
- Some things have slowed down because of the pandemic
- 911 communications director has been put in charge of relaying any critical information points or any hazardous conditions that first responders need to be made aware of
- Truss construction can be the worst nightmare for first responders when they're coming into a fiery situation, it has a tendency to collapse quickly
- Working with our buildings department to identify and make available for part of the critical information dispatch.
- Every building encountered are considered as being truss construction
- IPads will be put into all rigs to see possible critical dispatch information
- Pushing towards a new records management system; current one is outdated

- <sup>13</sup>. PS30.100      REVIEW; Starting a Police Cadet Program for Youth in Stamford.      **Report Made**  
08/04/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis and Pratt

Mr. Jankowski:

- Interested in this program but in the future
- Did have a citizens public safety academy for the youth this past summer
  - 40 hour course
  - Heavy slant towards police department
  - Learned about each public safety department

Chair Stella said this program can help with the current anti police situation going on now. Getting children involved early will help mold them into better officers.

- <sup>24</sup>. PS30.101      REVIEW; Update on [PS30.068](#) - Impact of Work Performed by A. Vitti Construction on Air Quality.      **Committee held 6-1-0**  
08/04/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis and Pratt

Attorney Anger stated:

- Noise and Vibration levels report state they are in compliance
- Zoning officer inspected the property recently and didn't see any activity on site
- Vitti Construction still has to do the following:
  - Set up the telephone hotline
  - Post hours of operations
  - Final Survey

The Committee discussed with Attorney Anger the following:

- Continuously receiving complaints about Vitti Construction still not being in compliance
- Did a walkthrough with Mayoral candidates and it was obvious they were open and operating
- Jim Lunney needs to be called immediately when Vitti Construction is in operation
- Need to consider putting surveillance cameras in the area
- Non Compliance needs to be verified by the Zoning Officer
- The Administration needs to be pro-active regarding this company's non – compliance
- Tax payers money was spent in court in order to get this company to comply with regulations
- The Administration needs to invest to surveil this company to rectify this situation
- Considering a Resolution to the Administration and City departments to work actively to resolve this situation

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<sup>1</sup> Video time stamp 00:56:00 Item PS30.100

<sup>2</sup> Video time stamp 01:04:39 Item PS30.101

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-0 (Reps. Morson, Stella, Curtis, Matherne, Sandford and Sherwood in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed;).

- <sup>35</sup>. [PS30.073](#)      REVIEW; Impact on Air Quality and Possibility of Discharge of Contaminants into Stamford Waters due to Work being performed by Construction Company at the BLT Property Located in the South End.      **Report Made**
- 10/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis, Sandford, Sherwood, Adams & Coleman  
10/29/20 – Report Made & Held in Committee 8- 0-0  
12/03/20 – Report Made & Held by Committee 6-1-0  
12/14/20 – Moved to Pending

Tyler Theder discussed the following:

- Majority of the roads in the south end are still part of the alternate side sweeping program
- No change including no deletions and added streets to the program
- The area was swept August 9, which is the second Monday of the month
- Catch basins were cleaned in and around the area
- Drove the streets and took pictures and saw no issues
- No intent to change or modify the program

- <sup>46</sup>. PS30.092      REVIEW; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality Monitoring as Proposed in [Resolution 4081](#), Advocating that the City of Stamford Prepare And Seek State Approval of an Air Quality Monitoring Program and Implement Such a Program.      **Committee held 6-0-0**
- 04/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz, Stella, and Zelinsky.  
04/29/21 – Report Made and Held by Committee 7-1-0

Ted Jankowski discussed the following:

- There are different types of indoor air quality monitoring that's been going on for many years
- Operations perform air monitoring at the old Police Station and Marina at Cummings Park
- Working with DEEP on the south end outdoor air monitoring with contractors
- Petitioned for DEEP to supply an air monitoring station in Stamford and it was not available
- Working with a JJ Wilbur Company regarding outside air monitoring; supplied estimates for recommended air sensor systems
- The system they are seriously considering and recommended is called a Purple Air PM 2.5 Air Quality Sensor (New Haven uses this system)
- Next step is to work with DEEP to get approval for air sensors
- Once approved they will contract with the JJ Wilbur Company for installation

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<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 02:19:20 Item PS30.073

<sup>4</sup> Video Tim Stamp 02:27:11 Item PS30.092

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Morson, Stella, Curtis, Matherne, Sandford and Sherwood in favor).

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)