



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023
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. Campbell, Coleman, Fedeli, Pavia, and Pierre-Louis. Reps. Berns and Roqueta were absent. Also present were Reps. Boeger; Curtis, de la Cruz, Grunberger, and Summerville; Louis DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety; Silas Redd, Assistant Police Chief; Eugene Dohmann, Police Lieutenant; Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health; James Federici, Director of Health Lab; Dana Lee, Legal Dept.; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Nette Compton and Michael Stake; Mill River Park Collaborative; and three members of the public.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE ACTION
11. PS31.020	REVIEW; Of a "duty to report law" Requiring Property Managers, Building Superintendents, Security Personnel, Doormen, Etc. to Notify 911 of any Emergencies. 04/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis, Stella, and Pavia 04/20/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 6-0-0 05/18/22 – No Action Taken	HELD 6-0-1
<p>A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote of 6-0-1. (Reps. Stella, Morson, Campbell, Coleman, Garst, and Pierre-Louis in favor; Rep. Pavia abstaining).</p>		
22. PS31.036	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Amending Code of Ordinances, Chapter 72, Alcoholic Beverages §72-2 , to Prohibit all Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor on any Public Highway or Municipally-Owned Public Area or in a Building or Room without a License for the Sale, Distribution or Dispensing of Alcoholic Liquors. 02/13/23 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Baxter, Campbell, Matheny, Tomas, and Walston	APPROVED 7-0-0

Lt. Dohmann explained the background on this item. This ordinance is directed at the West Side but for all of Stamford as well. Stephen Street and Alden Street corners are in disarray most of the day into the evening, with people loitering, drinking, gambling, and urinating. Social

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services has been out there with a limited effect. School bus stops are at these corners and children have to walk through this. Elderly citizens in the area are afraid to go out to the store. There have been several drug arrests in the past few months.

The common denominator in these areas is alcohol. The current ordinance does not prohibit drinking beer on city streets in Stamford. Two officers who transferred from New Haven, Officer Robert Tyghter-Twigg and Officer Justin Rose, suggested this ordinance be created. It will allow the Police Dept. to tell the people to leave and give them a \$100 ticket for public drinking. Lt. Dohmann believes this ordinance will have a tremendous impact not just for these areas but for all of Stamford.

Assistant Chief Redd discussed this item. In the summer of 2021 a “shoulder-to-shoulder” initiative began that was a collaborative effort between stakeholders in the city. It was an attempt to bring resources to these people who are alcohol dependent. However, the initiative did not have the hoped for effect. Our children should not have to walk through this to/from the bus. We need to protect the citizens of Stamford from this type of environment, and this ordinance will be an additional tool for that.

Attorney Lee stated this ordinance is a very good start, and he would like some time to review and work on it. The definition of “alcoholic liquor” is important because beer and wine are usually not considered alcoholic liquor.

Rep. Boeger, who is also a Police Sergeant, stated this ordinance is taken straight from New Haven’s ordinance, other than a few minor changes. Stamford’s current ordinance allows for beer to be consumed in public. This leads to other problems and criminal activity. Parks that have sporting events will still be allowed consumption of alcohol. But in other parks such as Hatch Park which is a playground for children, and Latham Park which has a lot of civic activities, it would not be allowed.

It is important to move this expeditiously, so this ordinance is ready now that the warm weather season will be here soon.

Rep. Campbell stated that it is unacceptable for people who live and work in this area to have to deal with this situation any longer. This problem needs to be fixed now.

It was discussed that Attorney Lee will review this with the BOR and have his changes ready to be voted on at the March 6th Board meeting, so that there can be a public hearing at the next Public Safety Committee Meeting.

A motion to approve Item #2, with the intention of Attorney Lee reviewing it before the 3/6/2023 Board Meeting, was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Campbell, Coleman, Garst, Pavia and Pierre-Louis in favor)

³ 3. PS31.002	REVIEW; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality Monitoring as Proposed in Resolution 4081 .(Previously PS30.092) 12/08/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Berns 12/13/21 – Moved to Pending	REPORT MADE
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Rep. de la Cruz reviewed background on this item and there was discussion.

In the 30th Board he proposed that an air quality monitoring program is needed. Had a program been in place the mold problem in the schools would probably have been caught earlier and prevented from being so widespread. Resolution 4081 was created. Some monitors were in place but not where they were needed most. The City can pursue indoor air monitoring. Municipalities must submit an outdoor air monitoring plan to the State, and if the State approves it, then the municipalities can implement it. He has begun to draft a plan.

He would like to know with the new Administration what plans have been formulated to implement an air quality program. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has many types of funding available for this.

Director DeRubeis explained that former Director Jankowski worked with the State partners and Stamford is part of the PurpleAir monitoring program. There are seven monitors throughout the city, south of the Merritt Parkway. These locations were specifically chosen based on the asthma map. This has been in place since May 2, 2022. There is not currently any indoor air quality monitoring program. There is no formal program through which the State reviews and approves a plan. Monitor reports are accessible via the City of Stamford website at <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/public-safety-health-welfare/air-quality>.

Rep. Coleman stated there are many air quality issues in her district. She keeps hearing the same things from the State but not getting anything done. Jeff Wilcox from DEEP has been to the area several times.

Rep. Stella stated that the rock crushing is a big problem. The dust and sediment is visible all around. Something needs to be done about this to put a plan of action in place.

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| 44. PS31.004 | REVIEW; City of Stamford Practices Regarding Environmental Testing Prior to Beginning Construction Projects and Disposal of Contaminated Matter Prior to and During Construction Projects and by Private Contractors, including Rock Crushing Activities in the South End, Relative to the Requirements of the EPB and CT DEEP.
01/05/22 – Submitted by Reps. Coleman, Stella, Pratt, De la Cruz, Adams, Curtis, and Figueroa
02/14/22 – Moved to Pending
05/18/22 – No Action Taken
06/13/22 – Moved to Pending | REPORT MADE |
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Mr. Casolo reviewed this item.

All capital projects he is responsible for administrating are managed carefully within each project. A lot of environmental work goes into construction projects. The Engineering Dept. works closely with hygienists and licensed planners. All school construction projects are aligned with a design team, architects, engineers, environmental consultants, and hygienists, to make sure the projects are managed legally and within OSHA requirements. This protects the workers, occupants, and the general public from being exposed to contaminants.

With school construction using State funds, environmental site assessments are required. This helps to understand what conditions may arise. This information is included in the bid documents so that during construction the bid documents contain the proper quantities, pricing, and specifications.

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The Engineering Dept. does not monitor private development construction.

Rep. Adams requested that the indoor air control monitor in the rock crushing property can be reviewed to make sure the owner is following the proper steps. The State wants to know if things are leaving the site, but by the time someone from the State checks it out, the material is gone. We need to work with EPB and DEEP to get this situation under control.

Direct DeRubeis stated he will look into the active permits on that site and the restrictions. Once he establishes that he can look into whether or not they are abiding by the agreement.

⁵5. PS31.032 REVIEW; Safety Procedures to be Put in Place for **REPORT MADE**
New Mill River Path on School Property During School
Hours.
11/09/22 – Submitted by Rep. Adams
11/14/22 – Moved to Pending

Rep. Adams reviewed this item and there was discussion. Mill River Park Collaborative has a path that goes through school property and is open during school hours. What safety measures are being taken for the children since anyone can now walk on school property during school hours.

Ms. Compton gave background on this item. This project began in 2017. The City of Stamford put it out to bid and oversaw the design and construction. Erin McKenna was the project manager for the design process. They worked with Principal Darling at Hart Elementary School and Principal Tate at Cloonan Middle school throughout the design process. Former director Jankowski and Ms. McKenna met with all of the PTO's of Cloonan, Hart, and Wright Tech, the Police Dept. and the Fire Marshal.

Mr. Casolo stated there were many meetings with all stakeholders during the design process and implementation of the project.

Rep. Adams expressed concern that the fence is only five feet high while the trail walk goes right by the playground. There should be cameras 24/7, and the path possibly closed during school hours.

Rep. Campbell stated that the walkway near Cloonan has been used for many years before this, and is much nicer now.

Rep. Stella stated the children should not be in full view, there should be a safety barrier while they are outside playing.

Ms. Compton encouraged everyone to not only think about preventing the worse case scenario, but the positive experience for the children having this walkway. Access to nature is important for children's mental health. It can be looked into addressing the safety concerns for the children while not compromising the benefits of the greenspace for them. She looks forward to working with the BOR on this further.

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chair Stella

This meeting is on [video](#)

⁵ Video Time Stamp: 01:30:40