



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, October 26, 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. Berns, Garst, and Pavia. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Campbell, Pollack, and Roqueta. Also present were Rep. Adams, de la Cruz, Grunberger, and Mays; Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare; Dana Lee, Attorney; Rex Morris, Interim Chief Stamford Fire Dept.; and Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health.

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

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
The Committee first considered Item Nos. 3 and 4.		
3. PS31.030	REVIEW; Health Risks related to use of PFAs (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in Public Safety Agencies PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and all Other Safety Equipment, as well as to the Environment. 09/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Curtis 10/19/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 11/14/22 – Moved to Pending 08/24/28 – No Action Taken 09/21/23 – Report Made and Held 7-0-0	Held 5-0-0
4. PS31.048	REVIEW; Stamford's Ban of Plastic Straws and the Safety of Paper Straws. 09/06/23 – Submitted by Rep. Stella 09/21/23 – Held	Held 5-0-0

Chair Stella stated that he would like to hold these items.

A motion to hold Item Nos. 3 and 4 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Stella, Morson, Berns, Garst, and Pavia in favor)

1. [PS31.047](#) ORDINANCE for public hearing and final adoption; **Approved, as amended, 4-0-1**
Amending [Chapter 242 of the Code of Ordinances](#)
Adding § 242-5 Prohibiting the Possession of
Firearms and Explosives in Government Buildings
and Polling Places.
09/05/23 – Submitted by Lou DeRubeis
09/21/23 – Approved by Committee, as Amended, 5-0-1

Chair Stella opened the public hearing. There being no members of the public present wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Committee members discussed the proposed ordinance with Director DeRubeis and Attorney Lee. Items discussed included the following:

- The purpose of the ordinance is to address a current loophole in the security protocols throughout the City.
- This will positively impact the security of employees and residents in City facilities.
- The exemption for retired law enforcement officers was added last month is a federal exemption which provides an added layer of protection for the public.
- The exemption regarding carrying/storing a weapon in a vehicle could clarify that the carrying/storage is legal; this would not be a substantive change.
- This ordinance does not create a crime. A violation of the ordinance is subject to a fine, whereas refusing to obey orders to vacate the premises could be a crime.
- Entering the premises with an unlicensed firearm would be a crime under State law.
- Who would be enforcing this ordinance since police can't ask for a permit in public. The security guards at the government center would probably be on the front line; this ordinance gives the authority to request credentials.
- The exception in D.1(a) should not be limited to "police" duties because federal officers engaged in official duties may not be engaged in police duties.

A motion to amend Item No. 1 to amend Section D.1(d) to read "The lawful carrying or lawful possession of a firearm inside a motor vehicle or the lawful storage of a firearm in a motor vehicle." was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Stella, Morson, Berns, Garst, and Pavia in favor).

A motion to approve Item No. 1, as amended, was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Stella, Morson, Garst, and Pavia in favor; Rep. Berns abstained)

2. [PS31.002](#) REVIEW; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality Monitoring as Proposed in [Resolution 4081](#). (Previously PS30.092) **Report Made & Recommitted to Steering 5-0-0**
- 12/08/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Berns
12/13/21 – Moved to Pending
03/01/23 – Report Made
03/06/23 – Recommitted to Steering at Board Meeting by Unanimous Voice Vote
03/13/23 – Moved to Pending
04/20/22 – Held by Committee 6-0-0
05/18/22 – No Action Taken
06/13/22 – Moved to Pending
05/18/23 – Report Made
06/05/23 – Recommitted to Steering by Full Board
06/12/23 – Moved to Pending
08/24/28 – No Action Taken
09/21/23 – Report Made and Recommitted to Steering, 6- 0-1

Committee members discussed Item No. 2 with Director DeRubeis and Director Bishop-Pullan. Items discussed included the following:

- A meeting is scheduled for next week with a representative from DEEP to discuss the long-term strategy and planning in regard to air quality monitoring for the City.
- The grant funding the City was awarded is for those specific monitors.
- Resolution No. 4081 requests an air monitoring program. This was pursued with the State guidance; that doesn't mean that the Administration is not going to pursue a long-term air monitoring strategy.
- The City will seek funding after it determines what needs to be done after getting technical guidance

A motion to recommit Item No. 2 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Stella, Morson, Berns, Garst, and Pavia in favor).

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).