



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

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report DRAFT**

**Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2024  
**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, Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, and Pollack. Also in attendance were Rep. Adams and Walston; Timothy Shaw, Chief of Police; Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare; Erin Mckenna, Senior Parks Planner, Robert Morris, Fire Chief, and Mike Robles, Assistant Fire Chief. Absent or excused were Reps. Pavia and Roqueta.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

| <b>Item</b>                 | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Committee Action</b>                  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 1. <a href="#">PS31.052</a> | RESOLUTION; Authorizing Mayor Caroline Simmons to Execute a grant agreement with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in the amount of \$210,750.00 for the Cooler Stamford heat resilience action plan<br>03/28/24 – Submitted by Burt Rosenberg<br><b>04/25/24 – Held in Committee</b> | <b>Motion to approve</b><br><b>7/0/0</b> |

Senior Parks Planner McKenna discussed the grant awarded for the plan.

- The money for the grant has been appropriated.
- One of the requirements of the grant is having this resolution.
- A statement of commitment has been given to execute the grant and produce a heat resilience action plan for the:
  - West Side
  - Waterside
  - Downtown
- The University of Connecticut has installed seventeen heat sensors throughout the project area.
- Stamford is part of a NASA funded research project at Yale University.
  - High resolution maps of tree canopy and land surface temperatures for over thirty years for the ten largest cities in Connecticut were produced.
- The action plan will begin as soon as this resolution is adopted by the City.

A motion to approve Item 1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson, Reps. Berns, Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, and Pollack in favor).

2. [PS31.035](#)      REVIEW; Overview of Department of Public Safety, Health, & Welfare.      **L. DeRubeis**  
01/04/23 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell      **T. Shaw**  
01/09/23 – Held at Steering      **R. Morris**  
02/13/23 – Moved to Pending  
03/23/23 – Held by Committee 7-0-0  
04/10/23 – Moved to Pending  
**04/25/24 – Held in Committee**

Director DeRubeis discussed the updated Public Safety dashboard.

- As of June 27, 2024, the Stamford Police Department has recorded over 46,000 calls for service, a 20% increase from last year.
- The increase is due to an increase in motor vehicle stops throughout the City and then two self-initiated program patrols.
- As of June 27, 2024, the Stamford Fire Department responded to more than 6,300 calls for service.
- Command leadership positions are increasing in North Stamford.
- The City is consistently picking up 92% of 911 calls in less than ten seconds, with zero calls reaching over thirty seconds.
- From 2023 to June 27, 2024, Stamford is currently at 75,112 calls.

Chief Shaw discussed the Stamford Police department.

- There are 276 full time officers, 9 of which are in the academy.
- Stamford's first police academy was opened on May 10, 2024. It is a six-month regional academy.
  - It is the first academy in sixteen years being held in Stamford.
- Stamford's Behavioral Health Unit now has a Sergeant, two officers, and two and a half clinical social workers.
- Pedestrians were given safety flyers and reflective bands in an effort to educate.
- Stamford's specialty teams continue to be a model for Fairfield County.
- Goals for 2024:
  - Build on the City's recruiting efforts.
  - Expand our ever-growing community outreach.
  - Increase to work with the schools on children's safety issues.
- Stamford remains one of the safest cities in the northeast with a population of over 100,000 citizens.

Chief Morris discussed the Stamford Fire department.

- A new fire apparatus that will replace the 2009 Sutphen 100 ft tower ladder was ordered and will be delivered.
- The 100 ft aerial ladder will operate out of the Washington Blvd fire station.
- The fire departments Special Operations Group consists of:
  - A HASMAT Unit on the South End
  - A Marine Unit

- The City's Smoke Detector Program was funded by a recent Fire Prevention and Safety grant, which installs free smoke/co detectors citywide.
- A new North District Incident Command was expanded north of Bull's Head.
- In September 2023 the Recruit Academy had thirteen new probationary firefighters.
- In the upcoming August Recruit Academy will have twenty new recruits.

Assistant Fire Chief Robles discussed the Fire department statistics for the fiscal year.

- The department has recorded 12,879 calls, which is about 800 more than last year.
- 52% of the calls were EMS related, 308 were fire calls, and 2,394 were automatic or false alarms.
- As of July 1, 2024, the department is budgeted for 272 personnel, with 19 current openings.
- The department has one female Lieutenant, three female firefighters, and a number of female volunteers.

3. [PS31.038](#)      REVIEW; City of Stamford Court Case and the City's Enforcement Against A. Vitti Construction; An Update on A. Vitti Construction in their Completion of Obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy. (Previously reviewed as PS30.101 and [PS30.068](#)).  
 03/06/22 – Submitted by Rep. Stella  
 03/13/23 – Moved to Pending  
 05/18/23 – Held by Committee  
 06/12/23 – Moved to Pending  
**04/25/24 – Held in Committee**      **TO BE HELD**

4. PS31.054      REVIEW; Food Truck Ordinance, [Code §179, Article VI](#).  
 06/06/24 – Submitted by Rep. Figueroa      **TO BE HELD**

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)