



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: This meeting was held remotely

The Public Safety & Health Committee will meet as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson, and Committee Member Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack. Also in attendance were Rep. Adams, de la Cruz, and Walston; Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety; Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services; Cynthia Anger, Corporate Counsel; Dipika Khushalani, Manager of Public Health Programs; Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief, and Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer. Absent or excused was Rep. Roqueta.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Item	Description	Committee Action
1. 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 07/15/24 – Held at Steering 09/26/24 – Helb by Committee 6-1-0	Motion to recommit 8-0-0

Director DeRubeis stated that A. Vitti Construction is a private business that established its operating systems in accordance with all the regulatory and state statutes. Chair Stella countered that, as documented by the video evidence provided showing rock crushing operations with the building doors wide open, Vitti Construction was not complying with the settlement agreement established in Superior court. Chair Stella asked what was the Administration going to do to make Vitti comply, such as sending citation officers to investigate and issue citations. Representative de la Cruz added that the citations would provide documentation to support any further action enforcement action the Administration may have to take.

Director Bishop-Pullan advised that if the air quality issue is due to fugitive dust and complaints are received:

- An inspector can be sent to investigate.
- DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) can then continue the investigation.

Representative de la Cruz asked if the inspectors could be sent in real time.

Director Bishop-Pullan replied yes, most of the time. Representative de la Cruz added that the inspector reports would provide documentation to support any further action enforcement action the Administration may have to take.

Given that further discussion is needed of the Administration plans to deal with this problem, a motion to recommit Item 1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Stella and Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

2. PS31.051	REVIEW; City Citation Officers; How City ordinances are Enforced under the City's Citation Process, and its Difficulties. 02/07/24 – Submitted by Rep. Stella and de la Cruz 02/29/24 – Held by Committee 04/08/24 – Moved to Pending 09/26/24 – Held by Committee 8-0-0	Motion to hold 6-0-1
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Representative de la Cruz stated that many of our ordinances are not complied with, primarily because business entities and residents are unaware of them, such as the ordinances banning plastic bags and Styrofoam containers. He recommended that the Administration implement an informational campaign through the mail, social and print media, etc. to inform the public and businesses of the existence of ordinances that affect their operations.

Representative Phil Berns requested a breakdown from Director DeRubeis of the number of complaints by residents regarding the use of plastic bags that have been banned pursuant to the City ordinances.

Given that further discussion is needed of the Administration plans to deal with this problem a motion to hold Item 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor, Rep. Campbell abstained).

3. PS31.057 REVIEW; grant approved by the Board of Representatives one year ago for the geo spatial air pollution truck (GMAP) approved for the South and West end of Stamford where the life expectancy (according to a Stamford Hospital study) is eight years less than that of a north Stamford resident. The same disparity in health is found in asthma rates from the North to South sides. The air monitors that are currently in place only monitor particles. The trucks cover toxins, gasses, and pollutants other than just particles.
10/09/2024 – Submitted by Rep. Camporeale
- Motion to recommit 8-0-0**

A motion to take up Item 3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

Director Bishop-Pullan provided updates on the air quality monitoring research in Stamford's South End and West Side neighborhoods.

- The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) awarded a grant of \$68,755.
- The project duration is from November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2025.
- The goal of the initiative is to build a capacity of community residents to measure air pollutants in real-time and educate residents to make data informed life-style choices.
- Air quality monitors:
 - There are three Aeroqual AQY-R air quality monitors.
 - Continuous measurements of O3 (ozone), NO2 (nitrogen dioxide), and PM2.5 (particulate matter 2.5) will be collected and averaged in our intervals.
 - The stationary locations are to be determined.
 - An online air quality dashboard will allow the public to interface with the air sensor data.
 - The website will give real-time information and will be user-friendly.
- A community meeting is planned for the week of November 18, 2024.

Chair Stella and Representatives de la Cruz and Adams stated that, unlike the current purple air monitors, these monitors need to be placed where the pollution occurs, not far away and 20+ feet up in the air. Vice Chair Morson stated that only three monitors was not sufficient for the large areas to be covered.

A motion to recommit Item 3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Stella and Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

A motion to suspend the rules and take Item 5 out of order was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Stella and Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

A motion to take up Item 5 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Stella and Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

5. [PS31.002](#) REVIEW; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality Monitoring as Proposed in [Resolution 4081](#). (Previously PS30.092) **Motion to recommit 7-0-0**
- 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
10/26/23- Report Made and Recommitted to Steering 5-0-0
11/13/23 – Moved to Pending

Representative de la Cruz gave a brief summary of the health issues that over four years ago led to placing this item on the Board's agenda and of additional health issues related to air pollution reported since then, and asked what was the Administration finally going to do to implement and air quality monitoring plan.

Director DeRubeis gave an update on the Citywide Air Quality Air Monitoring plan:

- An RFP was released.
- A vendor has been selected to assist in drafting a comprehensive plan.
- The process will move forward once the contracts are developed and signed.

Director Bishop-Pullan stated that poor air quality is a serious public health issue

A motion to recommit Item 5 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Chair Stella and Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

4. PS31.058 REVIEW; what are the demographics of the Stamford Board of Education Central Office Staff, our school administration, teachers, paraeducators, support staff, etc., and what is the important role they play in our children's mental health **Motion to recommit 7-0-0**
- 10/09/2024 – Submitted by Rep. Stella

A motion to take up Item 4 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Chair Stella and Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

Given that the invited guest was not able to attend a motion to recommit Item 4 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Chair Stella and Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Campbell, Camporeale, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).