



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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. Phil Berns, Campbell, Graham, and Pollack. Also in attendance were President Curtis, Reps. de la Cruz, Gilbride, Goldberg, Matheny, Summerville, and Walston; Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare; Timothy Shaw, Chief of Police; Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations and Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services. Absent or excused were Reps. Camporeale, Pavia, and Roqueta.

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

Due to the similarity in nature, Chair Stella requested to discuss Items 1 and 2 together.

Item	Description	Committee Action
1. PS31.060	REVIEW; Need for more Park Police 01/08/25 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis and Stella 01/30/25 – No Action Taken	Motion to hold 6/0/0

Director Quiñones elaborated on the structure of the Operations department and the Park Police Program:

- Coordination and administrative oversight for the Park Police is handled by the Operations Department since they are also police officers.
- The Park Police reports to the Chief of Police.
- Both the Operations Department and the Chief of Police share oversight responsibilities.
- The last budget included an appropriation for a Park Ranger program with part-time seasonal employees to support Park Police in enforcement efforts and supplement staffing.
- Park Rangers have no citation authority but serve as an extra enforcement presence, reporting to the Park Police.
- The goal is to create a more robust park enforcement operation by supplementing Park Police staff with the Park Ranger program.
- There is a need for additional Park Police, especially during the park season, but staffing

is limited by budget constraints and the requirement for certified police officers.

- Efforts were made to make the Park Police position more attractive by increasing the hourly rate and reposting the position.
- Several candidates were vetted, resulting in a conditional offer being made to one candidate, with an anticipated start date for March.
- The city will continue to post the position and seek additional funding to bolster both the Park Police and Park Ranger programs.
- The starting pay for Park Rangers is \$21 per hour and for Park Police is \$45 per hour.
- Last year's budget included funding for twelve Park Rangers.

A motion to hold Item 1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Chair Stella, Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Graham, and Pollack in favor).

2. PS31.049 REVIEW; Park Police Staffing and Park Enforcement
for 2024
12/06/23 – Submitted by Rep. Stella
01/25/24 – Held by Committee
02/12/24 – Held by Steering Committee
03/28/24 – Held by Committee
04/08/24 – Moved to Pending
01/30/25 – No Action Taken

**Motion to
hold 6/0/0**

Director DeRubeis discussed enforcement training:

- The authority of both police officers and Park Police officers is designated by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) for the State of Connecticut.
- Police officers and Park Police officers have the same certification, basic training, and recertification requirements every three years, including mandatory training hours in various fields.
- Recruitment for Park Police officers has historically been challenging due to the need for state certification as police officers.
- Park Rangers' training is different and coordinated by Park Police Officer Gould with the Stamford Police Department Training Division.
- The role of Park Rangers is to serve as additional eyes and ears, alerting Park Police officers or the SPD dispatch center to situations, without engaging in dangerous situations.
- Park Rangers do not receive training in weapons or defensive tactics and are meant to increase enforcement presence during peak park hours.

A motion to hold Item 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Chair Stella, Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Graham, and Pollack in favor).

3. [PS31.002](#) REVIEW; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality Monitoring as Proposed in [Resolution 4081](#). (Previously PS30.092) **Motion to hold 6/0/0**
- 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
10/30/24 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0
11/12/24 – Moved to Pending
01/30/25 – No Action Taken

Director Bishop-Pullan provided a status update:

- The City is working with TRC Companies, who has extensive experience in this area.
- Several components and steps have been provided to create the plan.
- The plan is about a third of the way done and expects to be complete by March.
- Extensive data analysis is being carried out to create a plan tailored to the data and specific needs of the City.

Director Bishop-Pullan discussed the City's air quality monitors:

- Limitations exist regarding where air quality monitors can be placed, and they are not for regulatory information or control.
- Regulatory monitors throughout the state monitor a variety of pollutants and are sophisticated, expensive, and large.
- The goal with new monitors, especially for PM 2.5 and other pollutants, is to closely match the regulatory monitors.
- Three key pollutants being monitored are:
 - Ozone, important due to its relation to asthma and other conditions.
 - Nitrogen dioxide, a precursor to ozone.
 - PM 2.5, dangerous to human health and indicative of industrial byproducts.
- Real-time data will be available to residents through a dashboard, showing current air quality.
- The aim is to use this information to support policy decisions.
- Monitors will be placed in Jackie, Robinson Park, Selleck Street, and the Lathon Wider area.

A motion to hold Item 3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Chair Stella, Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Graham, and Pollack in favor).

4. PS31.065 REVIEW; Increasing Crossing Guards Around
 Schools
 02/05/25 – Submitted by Reps. Gilbride, Weinberg,
 Grunberger, Mays, Blank, Goldberg, Pollack and
 Shaw

Report made

Chief Shaw gave an overview on the City's program:

- The budget for the crossing guard program is \$1.5 million.
- Background checks are performed, and a mandatory 4-hour in-house training session is required.
- The salary is currently \$63 a day and will be raised to \$66 a day.
- Based on annual data review, there are 77 assigned crossing guard spots throughout the City.
- The program is run by one civilian, with oversight from a sergeant, a lieutenant, and a captain.
- There are 8 additional fill-in crossing guards to cover for elderly guards who may get sick or take time off.
- Of the 77 spots, 19 are assigned to City schools, noting:
 - Stamford High School has 4 crossing guards.
 - West Hill has 1 crossing guard due to less pedestrian traffic compared to Stamford High School.
- The remaining 58 spots are at bus stops and crosswalks throughout the City:
 - East Main Street and Lockwood have 2 crossing guards.
 - Strawberry Hill has 1 crossing guard on the Strawberry Hill side.

A report was made.

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).