



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

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, August 28, 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, Pavia, and Pollack. Also in attendance were Reps. Boeger, de la Cruz, Goldberg, and Summerville; Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare and Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services. Absent or excused were Reps. Camporeale, and Roqueta, and invited presenters Dr. Lucero, Board of Education Superintendent, and Michael Hyman, Board of Education President.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

A motion to take up Items 1 and 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Chair Stella, Vice-Chair Morson, Reps. Phil Berns, Campbell, Graham, Pavia, and Pollack in favor).

Item	Description	Committee Action
1. PS31.067	<b>REVIEW</b> ; of City and School System Policies, Protocols, and Procedures Requiring Public Notification of Incidents. 05/12/25 – Submitted by Rep. Stella 05/29/25 – Held <b>07/31/25 – Meeting Cancelled</b>	<b>Report made</b>
2. PS31.068	<b>REVIEW</b> ; of City Policies, Protocols, and Procedures That Require Notification to Designated Officials—But Not the Public—Following Certain Incidents. 05/12/25 – Submitted by Rep. Stella 05/29/25 – Held <b>07/31/25 – Meeting Cancelled</b>	<b>Report made</b>

Director DeRubeis explained that public safety communications in the City are handled through a flexible, common-sense approach rather than a rigid protocol. Depending on the nature of the incident—whether it's police, fire, EMS, or traffic-related, the lead department determines how and when to notify the public. In urgent situations, such as safety threats or traffic disruptions, the 911 communication center often initiates public alerts.

All public safety departments maintain ongoing communication with one another, ensuring coordinated responses regardless of whether an incident is actively unfolding. Notifications may be issued via social media or official City websites, depending on the severity and formality of the event. During an earthquake last March, Director DeRubeis's office led the communication effort in partnership with other departments.

The City relies on situational judgment to decide who communicates what and when. The process is guided by available facts and the evolving nature of each incident, allowing for timely and appropriate public messaging.

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| 3. <a href="#"><u>PS31.002</u></a> | <b>REVIEW</b> ; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality Monitoring as Proposed in <a href="#"><u>Resolution 4081</u></a> . (Previously PS30.092)<br>12/08/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Berns<br>12/13/21 – Moved to Pending<br>03/01/23 – Report Made<br>03/06/23 – Recommitted to Steering at Board Meeting by Unanimous Voice Vote<br>03/13/23 – Moved to Pending<br>04/20/22 – Held by Committee 6-0-0<br>05/18/22 – No Action Taken<br>06/13/22 – Moved to Pending<br>05/18/23 – Report Made<br>06/05/23 – Recommitted to Steering by Full Board<br>06/12/23 – Moved to Pending<br>08/24/28 – No Action Taken<br>09/21/23 – Report Made and Recommitted to Steering, 6-0-1<br>10/26/23 – Report Made and Recommitted to Steering 5-0-0<br>11/13/23 – Moved to Pending<br>10/30/24 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0<br>11/12/24 – Moved to Pending<br>01/30/25 – No Action Taken<br>02/19/25 – Held by Committee 6-0-0<br>05/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 6-0-0<br><b>07/31/25 – Meeting Cancelled</b> | <b>Motion to recommit<br/>6/0/0</b> |
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Director DeRubeis detailed that in January 2021, the City began pursuing an air monitoring program to improve environmental oversight. Under the leadership of Ted Jankowski, the City implemented the purple monitoring system and successfully secured grant funding for three higher-level monitors, similar to those used by the state in nearby locations like Greenwich and Bridgeport. These monitors are now active and have received positive feedback from visiting environmental representatives.

The Mayor issued a memo in March 2024 directing the City to formalize a broader air monitoring initiative through an RFP process. TRC Environmental Corporation was selected to lead the effort, presenting a comprehensive plan informed by regional data and community input. The final draft, dated August 11, 2025, outlines the addition of four more advanced monitors bringing the total to seven strategically placed to enhance coverage along the I-95 corridor and the northern Parkway area.

This expanded network is designed to provide a more accurate baseline of air quality across Stamford. While some concerns remain about the scope of the plan, City officials are confident in its direction and the expertise guiding its implementation. The initiative reflects a collaborative effort among City departments, elected officials, and public health forums to address environmental monitoring in a meaningful and data-driven way.

Jody Bishop-Pullan added:

- The placement of monitors was informed by environmental justice concerns and areas with likely pollutant exposure.
- A downtown location was included in response to community requests.
  - Early findings show occasional spikes tied to weather events and external factors like Canadian wildfires.
- Data collection has been underway for the past three months, June through August.
- The goal is not only to monitor but to determine how best to respond to the data. The initial intent of the EPA funded program was to help residents understand poor air quality days and adjust their behavior accordingly, particularly those in sensitive health groups.
- The team is working on related health initiatives, including asthma-focused programs for children, aiming to translate environmental data into meaningful community health outcomes.

Representative Phil Berns respectfully asked Director Bishop-Pullan to explore and provide a response to the following concern:

- There's growing concern among community members that air monitors placed at thirty feet may not capture the same data as those positioned closer to ground levels such as the six-foot monitors used in New York City, including mobile backpack units. This raises the possibility that we're missing critical exposure data relevant to pedestrian-level air quality. How do City officials or program leaders respond to this concern, and is there consideration for incorporating lower-level or mobile monitoring into the current strategy?

A motion recommit 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).

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).