



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 25, 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 Reps. Adams, de la Cruz, Sherwood, Strain, and Walston.

Absent or excused were Reps. Camporeale, and Roqueta and invited guests Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare, Christopher Soules, Chief Compliance Officer, Board of Education Human Resources, Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health, and Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff.

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

| Item | Description | Invitee(s) or Designee(s) |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 1. PS31.002 | <p>REVIEW; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality Monitoring as Proposed in Resolution 4081. (Previously PS30.092)</p> <p>12/08/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Berns</p> <p>12/13/21 – Moved to Pending</p> <p>03/01/23 – Report Made</p> <p>03/06/23 – Recommitted to Steering at Board Meeting by Unanimous Voice Vote</p> <p>03/13/23 – Moved to Pending</p> <p>04/20/22 – Held by Committee 6-0-0</p> <p>05/18/22 – No Action Taken</p> <p>06/13/22 – Moved to Pending</p> <p>05/18/23 – Report Made</p> <p>06/05/23 – Recommitted to Steering by Full Board</p> <p>06/12/23 – Moved to Pending</p> <p>08/24/28 – No Action Taken</p> <p>09/21/23 – Report Made & Recommitted to Steering 6-0-1</p> <p>10/26/23 – Report Made & Recommitted to Steering 5-0-0</p> <p>11/13/23 – Moved to Pending</p> <p>10/30/24 – Recommitted to Steering 7-0-0</p> <p>11/12/24 – Moved to Pending</p> <p>01/30/25 – No Action Taken</p> <p>02/19/25 – Held by Committee 6-0-0</p> <p>05/29/25 – Recommitted to Steering 6-0-0</p> <p>07/31/25 – Meeting Cancelled</p> <p>08/28/25 – Recommitted to Steering 6-0-0</p> | <p>Motion to recommit 6/0/0</p> |

Rep de la Cruz summarized:

- Reports are forwarded to Directors DeRubeis and Bishop-Pullan, who indicate they're sent to the DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection).
- DEEP involvement is partly due to the current air monitors being inadequate for regulatory use.
- No follow-up has been observed from the City regarding DEEP's response.
- Residents have posted signs on utility poles, likely due to perceived inaction.
- Years ago, a request was made to issue an RFP for an effective air quality monitoring plan and the resulting TRC report, led by Mr. Hoffsnigl, was deemed inadequate by Rep. de la Cruz and Chair Stella.
- Key deficiencies included:
 - Monitor placement recommendations (20–30 feet high) contradict EPA guidance (3–6 feet in the “breathing zone”).
 - Dismissal of industrial pollution concerns in Stamford despite ongoing complaints.
- Rep. de la Cruz plans to introduce a resolution detailing what an effective air quality monitoring plan should include—beyond the current TRC report.
- The goal is to ensure monitors meet regulatory standards so the city can enforce air quality requirements and hold violators accountable.
- Despite their concerns, officials maintained the report was adequate and did not provide further input.
- Rep. Walston raised a direct question:
 - Who will be held accountable for air quality issues?
 - Expressed frustration that the issue is being repeatedly deferred.
 - Stressed that developers and polluting entities—not just the mayor—must be held accountable.
 - Called out the lack of enforcement against long-standing polluters and the need for transportation infrastructure improvements to reduce emissions.
- Reps. Campbell and Graham highlighted ongoing health risks, including asthma and potential lung cancer, especially in Stamford's South End.
- Rep. Pollack suggested considering collaboration with an external group to find actionable solutions and expressed hope for progress by the next meeting.
- Chair Stella offered to follow up with City officials and DEEP to clarify current accountability.

The conversation concluded with acknowledgment of the need for clear accountability and actionable next steps.

A motion to recommit 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).

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|-------------|---|--------------------|
| 2. PS31.057 | <p>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, gases, and pollutants other than just particles.</p> <p>10/09/24 – Submitted by Rep. Camporeale 10/30/24 – Recommitted to December Steering 8-0-0 12/09/24 – Moved to Pending</p> | Report made |
|-------------|---|--------------------|

Rep. Campbell highlighted:

- A public lecture at Ferguson Library on October 14 addressing health disparities.
- Emphasized links between poor housing conditions (e.g., mold, pests) and respiratory illness, noting historical neglect in services to the West Side.
- Geographic Clarifications included:
 - Rep. Walston requested correcting “West End” to “West Side” to accurately reflect the affected community.
 - Rep. Adams added that Waterside should also be included due to industrial pollution in that area.
 - Rep. de la Cruz supported expanding the scope to include the East Side, citing known issues there.
- Rep. Adams explained delays in GMAP deployment due to limited availability and competing pollution concerns in other towns; he advocated for a dedicated truck for lower Fairfield County (Greenwich, Stamford, Norwalk, Fairfield) to ensure more frequent monitoring.
- Chair Stella highlighted:
 - The longstanding soil contamination in Stamford’s South End due to its industrial past.
 - The potential of increased asthma rates due to rising vehicle traffic and highway expansion (e.g., I-95 widening).
 - Comparisons of localized exposure to pollution to secondhand smoke—those living in it face greater health risks.

Chair Stella concluded that the East Side, West Side, and South End are particularly affected by poor air quality.

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).