



***C.H.E.S.S. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING,  
EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE &  
COMMERCE***

Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

Stephanie Sylvestre, Co-Chair

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** This meeting was held in the Democratic Caucus Room and remote on Zoom.

The CHESSE Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Pollack and Sylvestre, and Committee Member Reps. Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price Walston, Wirz and Yeager. Also in attendance were Reps. Adam, Camporeale, Hyatt and Weathers; Moira Sawch, Community Development Program Administrator; Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Kathy LoBalbo, BOE School Construction Director; Chris Dellaselva, Assistant Corporation Counsel; and State Representative Eilish Collins Main.

Co-Chair Pollack called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>COMMITTEE ACTION</b>
1. <a href="#">CHESS32.006</a>	REVIEW; CDBG Program Review: Overview of the CDBG Process, the CHESSE Committee's role and responsibilities, and the potential Program Year 52 calendar 03/03/2026 – Submitted by Moira Sawch	<b>REPORT MADE</b>
<p>Ms. Sawch and Ms. Carpenter provided an overview of the City's CDBG and HOME programs, including program purposes, eligible activities, recent funding levels, and examples of prior projects and services funded. They also reviewed the proposed Program Year 52 timeline, including the application period, staff review, public hearing, scoring process, and anticipated recommendation schedule.</p> <p>Committee members asked questions regarding the application and review process, minimum awards, eligibility requirements, reallocation of unused funds, legal requirements, use of ZoomGrants, outreach to applicants, and materials that could be shared with the Committee. Ms. Sawch and Ms. Carpenter responded to those questions and agreed to provide additional materials.</p>		
2. <a href="#">CHESS32.003</a>	APPROVAL; DBI Projects, LLC Contract for Owner's Representative Services at Rippowam Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Project (RFQ/RFP No. 2026.0015) 02/27/2026 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons	<b>COMMITTEE APPROVED 9-0-0</b>

Ms. LoBalbo reviewed the proposed contract for owner's representative services for the Rippowam IAQ project and explained the need for project support, including documentation, budget, schedule, and construction administration.

Committee members asked questions regarding the scope of services, fee structure, and indemnification language. Assistant Corporation Counsel Chris Dellaselva responded to legal questions. A member also noted a reference in the exhibit identifying Rippowam as an elementary school rather than a middle school.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0. (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, Wirz and Yeager in favor)

3. [CHESS32.004](#) APPROVAL; of a proposed contract with Arcadis U.S., Inc. for owner's representative services at the Newfield Elementary School Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Project 02/27/2026 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons **COMMITTEE APPROVED 9-0-0**

Ms. LoBalbo reviewed the proposed contract for owner's representative services for the Newfield IAQ project and described the planned HVAC and indoor air quality improvements.

Committee members asked questions regarding the project scope, the selection of the firm, and differences between this project and the Rippowam project. Ms. LoBalbo responded to those questions.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0. (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, Wirz and Yeager in favor)

4. [CHESS32.005](#) RESOLUTION; Authorizing a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the Roxbury School Construction Project 03/03/2026 – Submitted by Director Quiñones **COMMITTEE APPROVED 8-0-1**

Ms. LoBalbo reviewed the proposed PLA for the Roxbury School Construction Project and discussed workforce, apprenticeship, and local hiring goals associated with the project.

Committee members asked questions regarding community engagement, union labor, return of the final agreement for approval, the Westhill project, and participation goals. Ms. LoBalbo responded to those questions.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-1. (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Wirz and Yeager in favor; Rep. Walston abstained)

5. CHESS32.007 REVIEW; of State Legislation – Connecticut House Bill 5283 regarding municipal authority to prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops. 03/04/2026 – Submitted by Rep. Pollack **REPORT MADE**

Co-Chair Pollack introduced the item under the Committee's State & Commerce jurisdiction. State Representative Eilish Collins Main appeared and provided an overview of House Bill 5283, including its purpose, status, and legislative process. She explained that the bill would authorize municipalities to determine locally whether to prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops.

Committee members asked questions regarding the bill's prospects, possible opposition, availability of testimony, and what members of the public could still do to advocate for the bill.

State Representative Collins Main responded to those questions and emphasized the importance of continued public outreach and communication with state legislators.

Co-Chair Pollack adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)