



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

Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

Stephanie Sylvestre, Co-Chair

Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: *This meeting will be held in the Republican Caucus Room and on*
www.zoom.com.

The CHESS Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Pollack and Sylvestre and Committee Member Reps. Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, Wirz and Yeager. Rep. Goldberg was excused. Also in attendance were Reps. Adams, de la Cruz, Lapine, and Shaw; Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Moira Sawch, Community Development Administrator, and Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff; Emily Gordon, Director of Housing and Community Dev.; Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief; and Anthony Romano, Director of Administration.

Co-Chair Pollack called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Item No.	Description	COMMITTEE ACTION
1. CHESS32.021	<u>REVIEW/DISCUSSION:</u> of Stamford's non-compliance with Timely Expenditure Requirements of its Community Development Block Grant Program 08/05/2026 – Submitted by Moira Sawch	REPORT MADE

The Committee continued its review of the CDBG timeliness issue from the prior meeting.

- Anita Carpenter clarified her comments from the prior meeting. She stated that she did not mean that the Law Department was sitting on 52 contracts. She said the Grants Department had been waiting for a template and had been working with the Law Department to move the agreements through the process once the template was received.
- Anthony Romano, Director of Administration, reported that the review identified issues with how agreements were submitted, tracked, assigned and communicated between departments. He said a clearer process had been established for agreements requiring legal review, with supporting documents submitted and the matter assigned to an attorney for follow-through with the Grants Department.
- Moira Sawch reported that HUD approved the City's workout plan on September 21, 2026, and that the PY52 funding agreement was received the following day. She said the City was working to spend down legacy funds and meet the required timeliness level by May.
- Ms. Sawch stated that the public service agreements for PY50 and PY51 were substantially completed, with a small number still moving through final signatures or documentation. She also reported that a template for public infrastructure agreements had been approved that afternoon and work on those agreements would begin.
- Committee members asked questions about the status of agreements, the annual grant cycle, reimbursements, the source of the accumulated unspent balance and the steps being taken to prevent future delays.

2. [CHESS32.024](#) **ORDINANCE for publication;** Amending Section 146
Article VI of the Code of Ordinances – Stamford
Housing Affordable Trust Fund.
09/06/2026 – Submitted by Reps. Shaw, Hughes and
Lapine

**COMMITTEE
APPROVED AS
AMENDED 7-0-1**

President Ramya Shaw introduced the proposed ordinance changes. Ralph Blessing and Emily Gordon provided background and answered questions regarding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

- The discussion included the proposed reduction of the number of trustees from seven to five, the addition of three alternates, changes to the ex-officio membership, broader qualifications for public members, a reduction of the quorum from five to three, and an increase in the amount that would require Board of Representatives review from \$100,000 to \$1 million.
- Committee members discussed quorum and voting requirements, tenant and public representation, conflicts of interest, the role of alternates, the approval process for Trust Fund awards, the proposed \$1 million threshold and legal review of the ordinance.

A motion to change “the Board” to “the Board of Trustees” on Page 4, Section 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0. (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, Wirz and Yeager in favor)

Representative Walston stated that she would abstain on the final vote until she received answers to additional questions. Representative de la Cruz asked whether legal review was needed before publication. It was stated that the previously submitted draft had been reviewed by the Law Department and that the email response would be added to the record; the amendment made that evening had not been part of that prior review.

A motion to approve this item as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-1. (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Gross, McKeown, Price, Wirz and Yeager in favor; and Walston abstained)

Co-Chair Pollack adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).