



Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives

Benjamin Lee, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Legislative Chambers, 4th Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Lee and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky. Absent or excused was Committee Member Reps. Coleman and Pia. Also present were Reps. Cottrell, Di Costanzo and Sherwood; Kathryn Emmett, Corporation Counsel; Chris Dellaselva, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Mike Handler, Director of Administration; Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; and approximately 50 members of the public. See the [public hearing sign-in sheet](#).

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
2. LR30.068	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> , Amending Chapter III of the City Code of Ordinances to Prohibit the Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Stores. 05/07/19 – Submitted by Reps. Kolenberg, Sherwood, Stella and Jacobson 5/13/19 – Moved to Pending 06/18/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 07/23/19 – Approved by Committee 6-0-0	Held 7-0-0

The Committee first took up Item No. 2. Chair Lee opened the public hearing. 33 members of the public spoke about the proposed ordinance. The majority of the speakers spoke in support of the proposed ordinance. The attached written statements were provided to the committee to be included in the record:

Stacey Christoforides of Lexi's Angels Rescue provided the [attached statement](#) into the record in support of the proposed ordinance.

Jo-Anne Basile provided the [attached statement](#) in support of the ordinance.

Togi Kuttamperoor, the owner of Safari Stan's, distributed the [attached materials](#) in opposition to the proposed ordinance

Angelique, an employee of Safari Stan's, provided the [attached statement](#) in opposition to the proposed ordinance

Emma Finley, an employee of Safari Stan's, provided the [attached statement](#) in opposition to the proposed ordinance

Dennis, a kennel technician at Safari Stan's, provided the [attached statement](#) in opposition to the proposed ordinance

Grace Catalano provided the [attached statement](#) in support of the proposed ordinance

Andre Balaj of Safari Stan's provided the [attached statement](#) in opposition to the proposed ordinance and distributed the attached materials

Carla Rojas, an employee of Safari Stan's, provided the [attached statement](#) in opposition to the proposed ordinance

There being no further speakers, Chair Lee closed the public hearing.

Committee members discussed the proposed ordinance as follows:

- How many stores in Stamford sell products for pets; and how many have a history of sourcing animals from puppy mills
- Whether Safari Stan's is in violation or compliance with current state law
- Whether there is an issue of unintended consequences arising from the ordinance, such as an underground market in California and Maryland, which currently have state laws banning the sale of pets in pet stores
- That it might be appropriate to include a grace period or winding down process for current businesses

Chair Lee noted that the Board office had received an email from Director Emmett on Monday raising a possible preemption issue, and he had subsequently requested a legal opinion on this issue. Director Emmett stated that her office was working on this issue and had not yet reached a conclusion.

Committee members continued to discuss this item:

- If a company's business model is selling animals, whether they need to be given time to change their business model
- The issue is not the business in Stamford, but what happens to the animals before they reach the business

A motion to hold Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Jacobson, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

1. [LR30.074](#) RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving a Lease **Approved 6-0-1**
between the City of Stamford and Optimus Health Care,
Inc. for Office Space on the 8th Floor of the
Government Center.
07/03/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
07/08/19 – Moved to Pending
08/06/19 – Approved by [Planning Board](#)
09/14/19 - To be Considered by Board of Finance

Chair Lee opened the public hearing on Item No. 1. There being no members of the public present wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Dellaselva explained that the City turned the management of WIC over to Optimus last year and they had a license to move into the 8th floor. The expectation was that the lease would have been finalized earlier but was not and so is retroactive to the end of the license. The lease is for 1375 ft². Optimus is expecting to move out by December. The rent is not revisited for 5 years.

Rep. Zelinsky made a motion to hold Item No. 1, which did not receive a second.

Optimus is administering the WIC grant, so the City no longer pays those expenses.

5. [LR30.076](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Prohibiting the Use and Application of Non-Organic or Synthetic Substances on City-Owned Properties. **Held 6-0-0**
07/09/19 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Matherne, Stella, Cottrell, Zelinsky, Roqueta, Kolenberg, Aquila, Jacobson, Saftic, de la Cruz, Spadaccini and Figueroa

Rep. Sherwood explained that Connecticut State law currently contains pesticide bans on City properties. She is looking to expand it to all non-organic substances. She has been working on this with Director McGrath and will probably be submitting alternative language later this month.

Rep. Lion noted that the language should not exclude viable alternatives.

A motion to hold Item No. 5 was made, seconded and approved by 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

7. [LR30.075](#) RESOLUTION; Relating to Email List Compilation and Use. (formerly [C30.018](#)) **Held 6-0-0**
05/08/19 – Submitted by Rep. Lion
05/16/19 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 5-0-0
06/03/19 – Held by Full Board
08/05/19 – Held by Full Board and Moved to L&R

A motion to hold Item No. 7 was made, seconded and approved by 6-0-0 (Reps. Lee, Fedeli, Lion, Miller, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

As a Secondary Committee:

1. [PR30.025](#) RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving Amended and Restated Lease Agreement and Assignment of Rights of a Portion of the Premises Known as John J. Boccuzzi Park a/k/a Southfield Beach Park a/k/a Boccuzzi Park by the City of Stamford to Soundwaters, Inc.
06/03/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
06/04/19 – Approved by Planning Board
06/19/19 – Approved by Parks & Recreation Commission
07/08/19 – Approved by Harbor Management Commission
07/11/19 – To be Considered by Board of Finance
06/10/19 – Moved to Pending
07/23/19 – Public Hearing Held & Held by Committee 4-3-0

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 10:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Lee, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#) (until the executive session)