

TO: 19TH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

FROM: APPOINTED BOARDS & COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

DATE: April 14, 2023

RE: COMMITTEE REPORT

Introduction:

The Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee was appointed in the Summer of 2022 by the Co-Chairmen of the full Commission. Its members consist of Commissioners Larobina, Bilicznianski, Lane, Bowser and Kolenberg. It was assigned with the responsibility of examining the charges from the Board of Representatives related to appointed boards and commissions. The Committee met a total of nine times beginning in August of 2022 and ending in March of 2023 (meeting minutes are attached as Exhibit A).

Discussion:

Initially the Committee met to decide which of the items from the Board of Representatives charge it would consider. Nine items from the charge were examined. It was concluded that five of the nine would be considered and four were initiated by the Committee for a total of nine:

1. Creating a board or commission on disabilities; (charge 41)
2. Creating a board or commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; (initiated by Committee)
3. Revising Charter process for appointment to boards and commissions; (charge 46 and 47)
4. Examining the need for a commission on aging; (charge 43)
5. Review Social Services Commission; (initiated by Committee)
6. Review Health Commission; (charge 66)
7. Creating a board or commission on housing (initiated by Committee)

8. Designating some boards and commissions by Charter but allowing them to be amended by ordinance. (Initiated by Committee)
9. Review Parks and Recreation Commission (charge 67)

Item 1: Commission on Disabilities (Charge 41)

The Committee looked at commissions on disabilities from the City of Bridgeport, Town of Westport, City of Danbury, Town of Berlin and Town of Fairfield.

Item 2: Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Initiated by Committee)

This item was not in the original charge. It came about as a result of our discussions on disabilities and social services. At the suggestion of our outside legal counsel, the Committee examined the DEI commission of the Town of Hamden. The City of Stamford's DEI officer also made a presentation on the topic.

Item 3: Appointments Process to Boards & Commissions (Charge 46 and 47)

After review of the current Charter provisions and reviewing the charge, the issue came down to one item; board and commission members continuing to serve beyond their stated term. The Committee reviewed the current language in detail and edited the current language.

Item 4: Commission on Aging (Charge 43)

The Commission on Aging was created by ordinance; not Charter. It was Article III Sec. 6-12 through 6-15 of the Code of Ordinances. In 2001, the Board of Representatives repealed the ordinance (Ordinance No. 959). When they repealed it, they merged the responsibilities with the Social Services Commission. Then in 2004 it was enacted again by ordinance (Ordinance No. 1017). In conjunction with the discussion on the Social Services Commission had by this Committee the topic of whether or not a Charter mandated Commission on Aging was in order. The director of the Stamford Senior Center was interviewed.

Item 5: Social Services Commission (Initiated by Committee)

The Social Services Commission was extensively reviewed. The City of Stamford's director of social services was interviewed and provided an overview of the responsibilities of her office. It was overwhelming obvious to the Committee that the office is under funded and under staffed. As much as the Committee took notice, it was also acknowledged the structure and organization of the social services commission can do little to address the resources needs. This is a budgetary issue for the City administration to address.

Item 6: Health Commission (Charge 66)

The current health commission language was examined along with an interview of the City of Stamford's director of health. The various roles of the health department were discussed and the impact it has on the residents of the city. Also discussed was the educational and professional experience of members of the health commission.

Item 7: Commission on Housing (Initiated by Committee)

The issue of a housing commission grew out of discussion from the February 25, 2023 full Commission meeting. Several Committee members also expressed the need for a commission dedicated to housing. Specifically, the issue of affordable housing within the City of Stamford.

Item 8: Boards & Commission by Charter vs. Ordinance (Initiated by Committee)

This item grew out of a recommendation from outside counsel. The issue is mandating some boards and commissions by charter and also proscribing their composition and duties. In the alternative mandating they exist but give the Board of Representatives the ability to amend by ordinance their composition and duties.

Item 9: Parks and Recreation Commission (Charge 67)

The current Charter provisions with respect to the Parks and Recreation Commission were reviewed. During this process it was discovered that the current Charter reserved to the Board of Representatives the authority by ordinance to amend this section of the Charter. Therefore, it was the consensus of the Committee to defer to the Board of Representatives if changes are needed and/or are appropriate.

Recommendations:

With respect to **Item 3**, it is the Committee's recommendation to put forth edit changes as delineated in Exhibit B attached. Vote: Consensus

With respect to **Item 4**, there is no recommendation to mandate by Charter a Commission on Aging. While the Committee recognizes the need and importance it can serve, it was determined that there are outside agencies that serve the needs of senior citizens. Those agencies are in need of more support, but this is a resource issue outside of charter revision. Article III, Section 6-12 Code of Ordinances commission exist per ordinance. Vote: 4-0-0.

With respect to **Item 5**, it is the Committee's recommendation to put forth edit changes as delineated in Exhibit C attached. Vote: 4-0-0

With respect to **Item 6**, it is the Committee's recommendation to put forth edit changes as delineated in Exhibit D attached. Vote 4-0-0

With respect to **Item 8**, it is the Committee's recommendation to make no changes to the current Charter. Vote: 4-0-0

With respect to **Item 9**, it is the Committee's recommendation to defer to the Board of Representatives. Vote: 4-0-0

With respect to **Items 1, 2 and 7**, it is the Committee's recommendation to create two commissions. The first would be a Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission. This

commission would be responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Representatives on matters of disability and diversity, equity and inclusion. This commission would also have investigatory powers to oversee all city departments and agencies and hear citizen complaints. The initial proposal included housing in this commission. After discussion, it is the recommendation to create a separate housing commission. In addition, the fair rent function would be merged into the new housing commission. This will reduce the work load of the social services commission and the social services department (see Exhibit E for proposed language). Vote: 4-0-0

Exhibit A

19th Charter Revision Commission
City of Stamford
Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina, Bilicznianski, Bowser, Lane and Lombardo.

Agenda Item Number 3:

Chairman Larobina reviewed with the Committee the charge from the Board of Representatives that pertained to appointed boards and commissions. He also provided the Committee with copies of the Charter sections related to city boards and commissions.

The Committee discussed nine (9) items from the charge. It was the consensus of the Committee that seven (7) items should be further examined by the Committee. The Committee also discussed when it would be appropriate to invite input from City officials and constituents.

The Committee concluded its business by agreeing to look at the current boards and commissions before the next meeting and be prepared to discuss not only the seven items from the charge but also any other board or commission any Commissioner deemed necessary for review. No formal votes were taken.

Agenda Item Number 4:

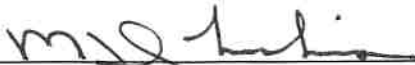
No new business

Agenda Item Number 5:

No old business

The Committee adjourned at 8:00 pm upon motion made by Commissioner Bilicznianski, seconded by Commissioner Lane and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Larobina, Chair
August 12, 2022

19th Charter Revision Commission
City of Stamford
Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2022

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at 7:05 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina, Bilicznianski, Bowser, Lane and Kolenberg.

Agenda Item Number 3:

Discussion was had on creating a board of commission on disabilities. There was general consensus amongst the Commissioners that the idea has merit and should be considered. Research will be conducted as to other municipalities who have such a board or commission and further discussed at the next meeting.

Agenda Item Number 4:

The new ordinance passed last year creating an Appointments Commission was discussed. The discussion centered on the process for appointing citizens to boards and commissions and what should happen when their terms expire. Also discussed was the need to professionalize this process and make sure it is open and transparent. Since this topic speaks to the structure and organization of the city government, the need to address the process through the Charter as opposed to ordinance was discussed. It was concluded we would invite the sponsors of the ordinance to our next meeting to hear their intent in creating the Commission.

Agenda Item Number 5:

Held

Agenda Item Number 6:

Held

Agenda Item Number 7:

Held

Agenda Item Number: 8

Held

Agenda Item Number 9:

Chair Larobina informed the Committee that he received an email from Commissioner McMullen regarding City Parks. The request was discussed and it was concluded the item belonged in another committee. It was given to Chair Kolenberg who will move it to the appropriate committee.

The Committee adjourned at 8:15 pm upon motion made by Commissioner Bilicznianski, seconded by Commissioner Lane and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Larobina", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael D. Larobina, Chair

September 16, 2022

Minutes of Meeting
19th Charter Revision Commission
Appointed Boards & Commissions Meeting
November 10, 2022

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at approximately 7:05 pm Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina Bilicznianski, Lane and Halpern.

Agenda Item Number 3:

Discussion continued on the creation of a commission on disabilities. The Committee examined the commission on disabilities from the Town of Berlin, Town of Fairfield, City of Bridgeport, Town of Westport and City of Danbury. After discussion motion was made and seconded to mandate in the Charter a Commission on Disabilities modeled after the Town of Fairfield. In addition to the goals of the Town of Fairfield commission, add the requirement of an annual report to the Board of Representatives. The composition, terms and other details to be established by ordinance. Said motion passed 3-0-0.

Agenda Item Number 4:

The current Charter provisions were examined and studied by the Committee. Several edits were made to the current language that the Committee felt would address the issues brought forward with respect to how appointments to boards and commissions were made. It was concluded that Chairman Larobina would produce a track changes document and forward that to our outside counsel for an opinion.

Agenda Item Number 5:

The remaining boards and commissions on our list to examine were discussed briefly. In addition, the Committee asked Chairman Larobina to see if he could obtain a copy of an opinion on the WPCA he had engaged from outside counsel when he served as corporation counsel.

The Committee would like to discuss with outside counsel the benefits and downside of having boards and commissions in the charter vs. in the code of ordinances.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Larobina, Chair
November 14, 2022

19th Charter Revision Commission
City of Stamford
Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2022

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at 7:12 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina, Bilicznianski and Bowser. Commissioners Lane and Kolenberg were excused.

Agenda Item Number 3:

Review and discussion was had on the Commission on Aging and the Social Services Commission. The discussion centered on public policy vs. the structure and organization of the city government. Chairman Larobina explained there is a difference between public policy and how the municipal government organizes its structure through the charter. Discussion centered on how the legislative body adopts public policy and it is not accomplished through charter revision. It was decided by consensus the Committee would invite the Director of Social Services and the Director of the Senior Center to a meeting to address the Committee.

Agenda Item Number 4:

Under old business Chairman Larobina informed the Committee that legal counsel was reviewing the Committee's edits to the appointments process and the decision to recommend a commission on disabilities. Discussion was also had about holding meetings in person vs. virtual. Chairman Larobina explained the Committee discussed this earlier and it was decided by a majority of the Committee to meet in person, however we would schedule some virtual meetings to accommodate Commissioner Bilicznianski.

The Committee adjourned at 8:32 pm upon motion made by Commissioner Bilicznianski, seconded by Commissioner Bowser and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Larobina, Chair
December 16, 2022

19th Charter Revision Commission
City of Stamford
Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2023

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at 3:06 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina, Bilicznianski, Kolenberg, Lane, Bowser, Michelson and Halpern. Also present were Christina Crain, Jody Pullan and Sharona Cowan.

Agenda Item Number 3:

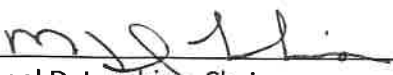
The first person to address the Committee was the director of the Stamford Senior Center, Christina Crain. She informed the Committee that there are 30,000 citizens over the age of 60 in Stamford. The Stamford Senior Center is the smallest in Fairfield County and receives the smallest amount of financial contribution from the City. Currently there is no Commission on Aging. Ms. Crain was of the opinion that there is value in a commission since seniors are underrepresented. Discussion centered around the advisory role of a commission.

The second person to address the Committee was the health director, Jody Pullan. She informed the Committee that the health commission serves in an advisory capacity and she meets with them on a regular basis. She finds the interaction with the commission helpful. She stated she feels it is important for at least a few members of the commission to have a health background. She pointed out that the commission hears appeals from orders of the health director, housing code enforcement and food establishment appeals.

The third person to address the Committee was the director of social services, Sharona Cowan. The discussion centered on the issues with obtaining a quorum of the social services commission and like the health commission the qualifications of the individuals who serve. Discussion was also had about the broad responsibilities of the commission and possibly moving some of those responsibilities to another commission allowing the social services commission to focus on the core functions of the department.

The Committee adjourned at 5:15 pm upon motion made by Commissioner Lane, seconded by Commissioner Kolenberg and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Larobina, Chair
January 9, 2023

19th Charter Revision Commission
City of Stamford
Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2023

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at 7:03 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina, Lane, Bilicznianski and Bowser. Commissioner Kolenberg was excused.

Agenda Item Number 3:

Review and discussion were had on the Commission on Aging, Health Commission and the Social Services Commission.

Commission on Aging: taking into consideration the input from the Director of the Senior Center, after discussion, Commissioner Lane made a motion to make no changes to the current ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Bilicznianski. Said motion passed 4-0-0.

Health Commission: taking into consideration the input from the Health Director, after discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that Chair Larobina should seek the further input of the Health Director on the following language:

“ Appointing authority shall consider appointing commissioners who possess experience and qualifications in public health, environmental health and community outreach.”

Social Services Commission: taking into consideration the input from the Director of Social Services, after discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to hold this item. Chair Larobina was asked to look at other municipalities in Connecticut for further guidance on their social services commissions.

Agenda Item Number 4:

Commissioner Bilicznianski started the conversation on creating a commission on diversity, equity and inclusion. Chair Larobina presented proposed language he drafted for the committee's consideration. After discussion it was decided by consensus that Chair Larobina should invite Carmen Hughes from the City of Stamford and one outside expert. Chair Larobina will arrange such a meeting. Said item was held.


Agenda Item Number 5:

Commissioner Lane asked to look at the proposed language the Committee previously voted on with respect to a commission on disabilities. After discussion, it was decided by consensus to proceed forward with the previously adopted language.

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Appointed Boards & Commissions
19th Charter Revision Commission
January 12, 2023

The Committee adjourned at 8:40 pm upon motion made by Commissioner Lane, seconded by Commissioner Bilicznianski and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Larobina, Chair
December 16, 2022

19th Charter Revision Commission
City of Stamford
Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2023

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at 7:04 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina, Lane, Bilicznianski. Commissioner Bowser phoned in for the first ten minutes. Commissioner Kolenberg was excused. Also in attendance was Commissioner Halpern.

Agenda Item Number 4:

Item number four was taken out of order at the request of Chairman Larobina. Commissioner Larobina informed the Committee that he had a discussion with the Director of Health and there was no objection to revising the language to the Health Commission drafted at the previous meeting of the Committee.


Agenda Item Number 3:

Commissioner Larobina presented to the Committee a proposed commission entitled Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission. Although, there are parts of the proposal that were well received by the Committee, after discussion it was the opinion of some Commissioners a commission such as this could not adequately address the issues, as it would have too large a portfolio.

Discussion then took place over creating a housing commission. After discussing what a commission of this type would be responsible for, it was decided by consensus to hold a committee meeting devoted to this topic.

Committee adjourned at 8:28 pm upon motion made by Commissioner Bilicznianski, seconded by Commissioner Lane and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Larobina, Chair
February 13, 2023

19th Charter Revision Commission
City of Stamford
Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2023

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at 3:04 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina, Lane, Lombardo, Halpern and Camporeale. Commissioner Kolenberg was excused. Also present was Commission Counsel Steven Mednick and Carmen Hughes (DEI Officer for the City of Stamford)

Agenda Item Number 3:

Chairman Larobina introduce Carmen Hughes. She presented a short PowerPoint presentation on the topic of DEI. At the conclusion of the presentation Chairman Larobina open the floor to questions. Several commissioners asked questions related to the presentation. A discussion on the topic of DEI took place. The opinion of Ms. Hughes on whether or not a commission on DEI would be helpful or not was given. She informed the Commissioners that if it was crafted carefully, it could be helpful but issued some caution.

The next item of discussion was the idea of creating a housing commission. Attorney Mednick was asked to offer his thoughts on such a commission. The discussion led to the idea of one commission to address disability, DEI and housing.

It was concluded that Attorney Mednick would draft something for the Committee to look at by Monday.

Since there was no quorum of the Committee, no votes were taken.

The Committee adjourned at 4:02 pm upon motion made by Commissioner Lane, seconded by Commissioner Larobina and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Larobina, Chair
February 17, 2023

19th Charter Revision Commission
City of Stamford
Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2023

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at 7:12 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina, Bilicznianski, Lane, Bowser and Halpern.

Agenda Item Number 3:

Review of the Parks Commission was included in the Charge. It was agreed at the August meeting to review this section of the Charter. The Committee reviewed this section of the Charter and discovered the current Charter allows this section to be amended by ordinance. Therefore, it was the consensus of the Committee there is no action needed on the part of the Charter Revision Commission. If there are issues that need to be addressed, the Board of Representatives can manage it by ordinance.

It was noted that Commissioner McMullen raised an issue about transfer of park lands. It was concluded the full Commission can take that matter up with his input.

Agenda Item Number 4:


At the February 25, 2023 meeting of the full Commission, this Committee was asked to look at whether some boards and commissions should be mandated in the Charter, but allow the Board of Representatives to amend them by ordinance. Discussion took place and the conclusion was to maintain the status quo.

Agenda Item Number 5:

After lengthy discussion, in a vote of 4 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions the Committee is making a recommendation to the full Commission to create a Social responsibility Commission with jurisdiction over DEI and Disability. A separate commission on Housing and Fair Rent. Both of these commissions would be appointed by the Board of Representatives and make recommendations to the Board of Representatives.

The Committee adjourned at 8:45 pm upon motion made by Commissioner Bilicznianski, seconded by Commissioner Lane and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Larobina, Chair
March 10, 2023

Exhibit B

Note: Awaiting Legal Counsel Opinion. This reflects work of the Committee

Sec. C6-00-3 – Appointment and Removal.

~~The Mayor shall annually submit to the Board of Representatives, at its first meeting after its organizational meeting,~~ nominations of members to each appointive Board, Commission or other similar appointive position, to fill each vacancy where a term of office has expired. ~~The Mayor shall also submit to the Board of Representatives at such meeting nominations of alternate members of the Planning Board, the Zoning board and the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill any vacancies on a "panel of alternates" where an alternate member's term of office has expired. No nomination to such appointive Boards, Commission, positions or "panel of alternates" made by the Mayor shall become effective until approved by the Board of Representatives. Provided, however, if a nomination to any such appointive Board Commission, position or "panel of alternates" made by the Mayor shall not have been approved or rejected by the Board of Representatives for a period of ninety (90) day, then such nomination shall hereupon become effective, having been deemed to have been approved by the Board of Representatives through its inaction. Provided further, however, if the Mayor shall fail to submit a nomination to the Board of Representatives within on hundred and twenty (120) days after the expiration of a Board or Commission or alternate member's term of office, the, at any time during the one hundred and twenty (120) day period thereafter, the President of the Board of Representatives may shall be required to nominate and the Board of Representatives may shall approve a successor to fill the position. Provided further, however, if said Board of Representatives shall fail to act within the allotted time period, the Mayor shall again be empowered to nominate an individual to fill the vacancy and the Board of Representatives shall have ninety (90) days to approve or reject such nomination as set forth above.~~

Commented [LMD1]: Ask legal counsel why this is in this section of the charter and not elsewhere. Does not seem to make sense to single out these appointments in a section speaking about the process of appointments.

~~(a)~~

Sec. C6-00-4 – Expiration of Terms of Office.

(a) The term of each appointive Board or Commission member or relevant position shall expire on December first of the final year of the term, subject to continuance in office for a period of six (6) months, ~~or until a successor has been approved by the Board of Representatives, whichever occurs first.~~

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Commented [LMD2]: Ask legal counsel opinion based on what he has seen in other municipalities in Connecticut

Exhibit C

Sec. C6-190-2 Powers and Duties of the Social Services Commission

Remove responsibilities for fair rent pursuant to Sections 7-148b through 7-148f of the Connecticut General Statutes and transfer responsibilities to the new Housing Commission.

Exhibit D

Sec. C6-100-1. - Appointment of the Health Commission.

Add : Appointing authority shall consider appointing commissioners who possess experience and qualifications in public health, environmental health and community outreach.

Exhibit E

Note: Need language for Commission on Housing

ACTION ITEM

Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission (BRC #7.a-d/CRC ##41-44)
Reviewed by the Appointed Boards and Commissions Committee

- (5) The Personnel Commission
- (6) The Patriotic and Special Events Commission
- (7) The Health Commission
- (8) The Parks & Recreation Commission
- (9) The Water Pollution Control Authority
- (10) The Municipal Building Board of Appeals
- (11) The Golf Commission
- (12) The Social Services Commission
- (13) The Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
- (14) The Board of Ethics

(b) The following Boards and Commissions shall contain five (5) members who shall serve for four (4) year terms, coinciding with the term of office of the Mayor:

- (1) The Police Commission; and,
- (2) The Fire Commission

SUBDIVISION D. RESERVED CITIZENS OVERSIGHT AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMISSION⁶

Sec. C6-110-1. (Reserved) Appointment, Terms⁷.

The Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission shall consist of nine (9) members to serve staggered/overlapping terms of three (3) years, to be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Representatives.

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Commented [S2]: What is the approval standard?

Sec. C6-110-2. (Reserved) Powers and Duties of the Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission⁸.

In furtherance of the investigatory and oversight functions of the Board of Representatives, the Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission shall act as an independent and impartial commission empowered to exercise the following powers and duties:

(a) Citizen Oversight. (1) Review the acts of administrative agencies, departments and any authorities created by the Board of Representatives pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes or its Charter; and, (2) recommend appropriate changes toward the goals of safeguarding the rights of persons and of promoting higher standards of competency, efficiency and equity in the provision of municipal services.

⁶ NEW (2024). Editor's note—Former 11 (previously Ch. 46 of Title IV), Public Welfare Commission, consisting of Secs. C6-110-1 and C6-110-2 (previously Secs. C-460 and C-463 respectively) was repealed by referendum vote 11-3-1987.

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⁷ NEW (2024)

⁸ NEW (2024)

ACTION ITEM # _____

Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission (BRC #7.a-d/CRC ##41-44)
Proposed/Reviewed by the Appointed Boards and Commissions Committee

(b) People with Disabilities. (1) Make recommendations to ensure Stamford is a welcoming community where people with disabilities can lead inclusive and fulfilling lives, participating and contributing as active members of our city; (2) Provide advice to all city departments, board, commissions, agencies and authorities aforementioned, to increase awareness about issues and opportunities affecting people with disabilities; (3) Advise city officials on policies, procedures, programs and services including facilities; (4) Provide information and guidance to individuals, businesses and organizations on matters related to disabilities; (5) Engage people with disabilities and their families, encouraging them to participate in city government and planning; and (6) Foster and promote a community dialogue with businesses, community organizations, clubs and associations.

(c) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. (1) Make recommendations with respect to diversity, equity and inclusion in the operation of city government; (2) Coordinate efforts to gain public input into diversity, equity and inclusion principles, policies and approaches across all City policies, procedures and systems of the City; (3) Provide assistance to the Mayor, Board of Representatives and other Boards and Commissions with respect, but not limited, to the following issues: housing, access to education, public health, law enforcement and civilian engagement and supporting participation in City Boards and Commissions and governance; and (4) Exercise the powers concerning the investigation and elimination of discriminatory practices pursuant to Sections 7-148i through 7-148n, inclusive, of the General Statutes⁹.

(d) Fair Rent Commission Functions¹⁰. (1) Exercise all of the powers conferred by Sections 7-148b to 7-148f, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and shall carry out the provisions of Section 47a-20 and Subsection (b) of Section 47a-23c of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning retaliatory action by landlords; and, (2) Act to control and eliminate excessive rental charges for housing accommodations within the City of Stamford and shall carry out the purposes, duties, responsibilities and all provisions of the above-described sections of the Connecticut General Statutes and any other sections, as they may be amended from time to time, pertaining to fair rent commissions.

(e) Oversight of the Affordable Housing Plan ("SAHP"). Oversee the Stamford Affordable Housing Plan (SAHP) as provided for in Section 146-74 of the Code of Ordinances. In order to effectuate this provision of the Charter the Land Use Bureau shall report to the Commission bi-annually on the SAHP and shall take into consideration recommendations from the Commission to the plan. The Land Use Bureau shall not submit its plan as called for in Section 146-74 of the Code of Ordinance to the Planning Board without review and recommendations from the Commission.

⁹ The final clause, in lieu of Sec. C6-190-2(2).

¹⁰ In lieu of current Subdivision I entitled "Social Services Commission (Sec. C6-190-1 and -2(1)).

ACTION ITEM # _____

Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission (BRC #7.a-d/CRC ##41-44)
~~Proposed~~Reviewed by the Appointed Boards and Commissions Committee

Sec. C6-110-3. Reviews, Findings and Recommendations of the Commission¹¹.

(a) Generally. Commission review shall mean an informal inquiry resulting in a written report to the Board of Representatives detailing the finding(s) and recommendation(s). Before submitted any findings or recommendations the Commission shall consult with the subject of the report whether a Department or individual and include their response in the report.

(b) Subject Matter Panels or Subcommittees. The members of the Commission shall be assigned by the Chair to sit on three-member subject matter panels or subcommittees in order to conduct reviews and hearings with respect to the powers and duties of the Commission. Their recommendation shall be presented to an acted upon by the entire Commission prior to transmittal to the Board of Representatives.

(c) Panels on Fair Rent Commission and Discriminatory Practice Functions. With respect to the Fair Rent Commission and discriminatory practice functions the members shall be assigned by the Chair to sit on five-member panels to adjudicate matters in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes and Ordinance. Upon request, the Corporation Counsel shall provide legal representation for the Commission in these functions.

Sec. C6-110-4. Right of Access Public Records¹².

Any other provisions of law notwithstanding, the Commission shall have access to and examine and copy, without payment of a fee, any municipal or agency records. The Commission shall not have access to legally privileged records held by the Corporation Counsel, other assigned and authorized legal counsel for any municipal department or other authority, or attorney-client records held by clients of the Corporation Counsel or other legal counsel to the City.

Sec. C6-110-5. Finding of Breach of Duty or Misconduct¹³.

In the event the Commission concludes that a breach of duty occurred or that a public official or employee engaged in misconduct under Law, the Commission may refer the matter to the (a) Mayor; (b) appropriate department head; (c) the Board of Ethics; or, (d) when appropriate, to the Chief of Police, or any other law enforcement or regulatory agency. The Commission shall consult with the Corporation Counsel or assigned counsel in order to determine the appropriate balance of public disclosure, personal privacy and investigatory probity

¹¹ NEW (2024)

¹² NEW (2024)

¹³ NEW (2024)

ACTION ITEM # _____

Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission (BRC #7.a-d/CRC #41-44)
Proposed/Reviewed by the Appointed Boards and Commissions Committee

Sec. C6-110-6. Code of Ethics Violation¹⁴.

It shall be a violation of the Code of Ethics for any individual or person to willfully (a) hinder, or (b) refuse to cooperate with an investigation or review by the Commission.

Sec. C6-110-7. Funding¹⁵.

The Commission may submit at its discretion a request for operating funds directly to the Board of Representatives subject to its approval, to be paid from a dedicated line item in the Board of Representatives budget. The Mayor's budget shall include, and the Board of Finance and Board of Representatives shall appropriate for the support of the Commission and its employees, at least the amount necessary to maintain the staffing level as approved in the previous annual budget, unless the Commission requests a lesser amount.

Commented [S3]: How do you guarantee funding?

Sec. C6-110-8. Cooperation¹⁶.

Each Official and employee of any Department of the City shall assist the Boards and Commissions and the pertinent Departments in carrying out the provisions of this Charter. Furthermore, in the event a Board or Commission is attached to a Department, the Department Head shall cooperate with said Board or Commission in formulating and carrying out the operational, management and personnel policies of the Department.

Commented [S4]: SHOULD THIS BE A GENERAL PROVISION?

Sec. C6-110-9. Reorganization and Restructuring¹⁷.

The powers and duties of this Commission may be modified by Ordinance and assigned to another Board or Commission, subject to the limitation that all such powers and duties set forth in this Charter shall be continued to be provided to the residents of this City. Notwithstanding the foregoing, such power or duty may be modified or eliminated as the result of a repeal of a Federal or State mandate, if it is determined that to do so is in the best interest of the City.

SUBDIVISION L. SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION¹⁸

¹⁴ NEW (2024)

¹⁵ NEW (2024)

¹⁶ NEW (2024)

¹⁷ NEW (2024)

¹⁸ Editor's note—Former 19. Traffic Commission, consisting of Secs. C6-190-1 and C6-190-2, was repealed by referendum vote 11-7-1985. Note(s)—The Social Services Commission combined the former Human Rights Commission and the Fair Rent Commission.

ACTION ITEM # _____

Citizens Oversight and Social Responsibility Commission (BRC #7.a-d/CRC ##41-44)
Proposed/Reviewed by the Appointed Boards and Commissions Committee

~~Sec. C6-190-1. Appointment Terms¹⁹.~~

~~The Social Services Commission shall consist of five (5) members to serve overlapping terms of three years, to be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Representatives in accordance with the provisions of this Charter.~~

~~Sec. C6-190-2. Powers and Duties of the Social Services Commission²⁰.~~

~~The Social Services Commission shall:~~

~~(1) Exercise the powers given to a fair rent commission pursuant to Sections 7-148b through 7-148f, inclusive, of the General Statutes;~~

~~(2) Exercise the powers concerning the investigation and elimination of discriminatory practices pursuant to Sections 7-149i through 7-149n, inclusive, of the General Statutes.~~

¹⁹ ~~Referendum 11-7-1995.~~

²⁰ ~~Referendum 11-7-1995.~~

Add to draft section on Housing:

- Make recommendations on community attitudes about housing (range, distribution, racial, social-economic problems)
- Make recommendations for programs for evaluating, maintaining, and upgrading the distribution and quality of housing stock in the City
- Make recommendations for planning, implementing and evaluating City programs under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974
- Initiate, review and recommend on housing policies and programs for the City
- Review and recommend on housing related impacts for environmental impact reports
- Review and recommend on State and regional housing issues