

# CITY OF STAMFORD 19<sup>TH</sup> CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

Anthony Pramberger, Jr., Chair

Members

Michael Larobina  
Thomas Lombardo  
J.R. McMullen  
Jackie Pioli

## Draft Meeting Report

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Meeting was held in person at the Government Center

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm.
2. Roll Call – Commissioners Lombardo, McMullen, Pioli and Pramberger were in attendance; Commissioner Larobina was not present. Commissioner Bowser was also in attendance.
3. Ongoing review of the Committee's Charge Items.
  - a. C5-20-3 BOR obtaining independent counsel. As part of its discussion of Charge item 28, the committee also reviewed and discussed the process by which the BOR is currently allowed to hire independent counsel, per section C5-20-3 of the Charter. The current language states: "Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Representatives may, by resolution jointly presented by the Majority Leader, Minority Leader, the President and Clerk and approved by the affirmative vote of not less than thirty-one (31) members, retain independent counsel to represent the Board of Representatives with respect to a specific case or controversy in rendering opinions and appearing in any proceeding and may appropriate monies to pay the fees and costs of such counsel."  
It was noted that this issue corresponds to Charge item 29, assigned to the City Departments Committee for its review: "Review whether the Board of Representatives, the Board of Education, and Board of Finance should have their own legal counsel". The committee will work with Chair Williams' City Depts. Committee and move along in conjunction. The Chair will also reach out to L. Berta or T. Romano regarding how such expenses would be funded/ appropriated.
  - b. C3-10-40 - Require changes in order to clarify logical and seamless transition during the rare occasion where both the Mayor and President, BOR are simultaneously absent from Stamford. The committee discussed this item further. It was agreed that the Chair would share President Curtis email requesting this change to all committee members and would discuss again at its next meeting.
  - c. Charge item 117 – Replace BOR with City Council. The committee reviewed and discussed this item. The committee since has reached out and received additional input from Mr.

Jacobsen on his suggestion. The committee reviewed and deliberated on this information. The committee voted 4-0 not to pursue this item.

4. The Committee reviewed the list of Invited Guests' Suggestions for Potential Action or Referral to Another Committee, and deliberated on the following three items:
  - a. October 19 meeting - Minority representation on the BOE – it was suggested that instead of a 6 (majority)-3(minority) relationship, that this be changed to 5-4 to create greater equity for the minority party. It was not clear if this were allowed by state statute. This is currently under review by Counsel.
  - b. November 3 meeting - Increase the time for transition of outgoing and incoming Mayors by moving the swear-in date from early December to early January. The committee discussed this item and thought the swear-in date should be left as it is. The committee voted 4-0 not to pursue this item.
  - c. November 3 meeting - Use the 2030 census to change the number of districts to 13 (“a patriotic number”), with two Reps per district (26 in total). At its Dec. 1 meeting the committee reviewed and rejected item #97 - Halve the number of members on the Board of Representatives, either by having one per district or reducing the number of districts to 10, voting 4-0 not to pursue this item. The committee saw the suggestion to change the number of districts to 13 as a similar attempt to reduce the number of Representatives and elected not to pursue it by a vote of 4-0.
5. The Meeting Notes of December 1, 2022 were amended and approved, 4-0.
6. Upcoming meetings: The committee deleted the April 6 date as it conflicts with Passover and Hold Thursday. The remaining dates remain in effect. It was noted that the committee may not need to meet twice a month if the full Commission also meets twice monthly. The committee agreed to keep these dates and cancel a date if it is not needed.
  - Calendar for 2023 - the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month, at the Govt. Center, starting at 6 pm.
    - January 5, 18
    - February 2, 15
    - March 2, 15
    - April 19
    - May 4, 17
    - June 1, 21
    - July (if needed) 6, 19
    - August (if needed) 3, 16
    - September (if Meeting needed) 7, 21
7. Unfinished Business – there was none
8. New Business – there was none
9. Adjournment – 6:27 pm.

This meeting is on [video](#)