

CITY OF STAMFORD 19TH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

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August 22, 2023

Hon. Lyda Ruijter
City & Town Clerk
888 Washington Boulevard
Ground Floor
Stamford, CT 06901

Hon. Jeff Curtis
President
Board of Representatives
888 Washington Boulevard, 4th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901

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STAMFORD TOWN CLERK

Re: Draft Report and Submission of the Charter Revision Commission

Dear Clerk Ruijter, President Curtis and Members of the Board of Representatives:

Pursuant to §7-191(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes we are pleased to submit to you the Final Report of the 19th Charter Revision Commission in the form of a Proposed Charter Revision for the City of Stamford, approved on August 19, 2023 ("Proposed Revised Charter"). This report is the culmination of a Charter Revision Commission process that began with an organizational meeting on March 15, 2022 and continued with twenty-four additional meetings, including the first statutory public hearings held on May 11 and 12, 2022 and a second statutory hearing on May 24, 2023. The final meeting adjourned on May 30, 2023.

A Draft Report was submitted to the Board of Representatives on June 7, 2023. The Charter Revision Committee of the Board then conducted a series of six meetings in June and July, culminating in a meeting of the Board of Representatives on July 20th following two Public Hearings. The recommendations of the Board were transmitted to the Commission on July 21, 2023. In this last phase, the Commission met four times and the Land Use Committee met once during this period and the Chair met with the Mayor, her chief of staff, Corporation Counsel, along with the Majority Leader of the Board of Representatives and Commission Counsel in order to discuss outstanding differences of opinion.

As you may recall the Board of Representatives provided the Commission with a comprehensive wide-ranging, sweeping and extensive charge in Resolution No. 4125, which was adopted on March 7, 2022. The Recommendations adopted by the Board in Resolution No. 4244 on July 20, 2023 and received by the Commission on July 24, 2023 were equally extensive in scope and breadth.

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In the limited time we had under the statute we have considered each and every Recommendation, many of which had been already reviewed and addressed earlier in the process. We would also point out that there were issues of merit raised in the recommendations as well as in Resolution No. 4125 that were meritorious and should be given further reconsideration in a future charter revision process.

Approved Recommendations

The Preamble. The Commission was asked to approve the deletion of the word “revolutionary” from the Preamble. The Commission approved the change.

Sec. C1-10-4(14) (17) – Definitions of “Newspaper Notice” and “Public Hearings”. This provision was modified as a result of P.A. 23-205. The Commission was obligated to eliminate these proposed safeguards barred by law. These expanded definitions would have expanded opportunity and protections for public participation before the land use bodies that members of the public will be afforded before all other Boards and Commissions of the City.

Sec. C1-10-4(15) – Definition of “Ordinance.” Approved.

Sec. C1-50-1 and -3: Reforms pertaining to eminent domain and land acquisition and disposition. In order to accommodate actions beyond our control, the public hearing and public accountability standards, including a higher approval standard for these long-term transactions have been eliminated from our Final Report in order to comply with the new statutory restrictions on home rule. We believed at the time we recommended the changes and continue to believe that these safeguards and public engagement provisions addressed the long-term financial, economic and quality of life consequences to the City when decisions about the acquisition and disposition of property are at stake.

In our Draft Report Sec. C1-50-1 (“Condemnation for Municipal Purposes”) addressed the legitimate concerns raised by the Board of Representatives in their charge. The two reforms would have:

- increased the voting requirements for approving condemnation to 2/3rds of the members of the Boards of Finance and Representatives; following a joint public hearing; and
- mandated expanded public outreach in order to encourage public engagement.

Our recommendation endeavored to ensure that the use of eminent domain would be confined to significant municipal uses, bolstered by public knowledge, participation and buy-in. (See, BRC #2.a and 2.e – City Departments and Land Use).

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Similarly, our proposed changes to Sec. C1-50-3 (“Acquisition and Disposition of Real Estate”) would have expanded public protection and participation in matters affecting the quality of life in their neighborhoods. With respect to the disposition of land, including sale or lease, the Planning Board and Boards of Finance and Representatives would be able to approve such proposed actions following an affirmative vote of 2/3^{rds} of the members of each board. The standard for acquisition will now remain at a majority of the entire membership of each of the boards. These decision-making processes would have benefitted from expanded public outreach and joint public hearings by the boards involved in the transaction. The Commission remains perplexed about the opposition to these public safeguards by private developer interests and their supporters (See, BRC #2.e – Land Use).

Sec. C2-10-3: Legal Assistance and Investigatory Functions of the Board of Representatives. The Commission advanced recommendations regarding Counsel for the Board of Representatives in its Draft Report and further clarifies and streamlines them in the Final Report. The final language clarifies several points.

- There is a clear line of distinction between the Staff Counsel and Outside Counsel.
- An explicit Charter-based job experience requirement is eliminated and, instead, the Charter ties the experience and salary levels to the standards for lawyers in municipal legal departments and local legislative bodies.
- The Staff Counsel is entirely discretionary and subject to approval of a majority vote of the Board of Representatives; and, if hired, the clearly expressed intent of the Charter is to add the employee as a “pay plan” employee in order to distinguish the Staff Counsel from those covered by collective bargaining agreements.
- The Draft Report language ensuring the Board of Representatives with funding equal to “one-quarter of the outside counsel budget expenditures incurred by the City” has been removed. We agree with the testimony at the public hearing that the proposed language was far too expansive and, ultimately, imprecise. The Commission recommends a budget based upon actual need and experience. Since the Mayor establishes the line-items in the budget, the Charter requires a line equal to the amount expended in the prior year, unless a lesser amount is requested by the Board of Representatives in their budget request.

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Comment on Sec. C2-10-5: A Legitimate Exercise of the Legislative Function. . It is not unusual for a municipal legislative body to retain counsel, on its own volition, to address its legislative functions and prerogatives. Contrary to the criticisms this provision cannot and does not attempt to establish an alternate legal office for the City of Stamford. The Corporation Counsel is the counsel for the City...for the municipal corporation.

There are only two provisions required in municipal charters in the State of Connecticut. Every municipality must designate a chief executive and a legislative authority. In Stamford the Mayor is granted the full panoply of executive authority, including sole authority to create the line-items of the budget. While the Mayor has no veto authority over the actions of the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives, those two bodies have the limited authority to reduce the budget and eliminate line-items.

The Board of Representatives is the legislative body. While in Stamford the legislative body has more limited budget authority than the other cities in Connecticut, it stands equal to each of those communities in its full possession of legislative, law-making and oversight functions. In Stamford's case, the Board of Representatives, through the 70-year-old land use petition appeals process, has unique land use functions that the other large cities do not have.

The issue we are addressing in this Final Report is unique to Stamford because the legislative body in each of the other cities has budgetary authority in the line-item budgets they play a role in creating. For most of those cities the issue of hiring counsel to meet the legitimate needs of the legislative body is an issue that falls within their purview¹. We agree with the proposition that as a matter of good practice a municipal legislative body should use the services of the Office of the Corporation Counsel and our proposal requires such a consultation to ensure the Board does not hire a lawyer with a conflict of interest or not in good standing in the State of Connecticut.

The Commission, in its effort to contribute to the legislative history of the proceedings before the Board of Representatives, would like to make it clear that the proposed amendments are not an attempt to create an alternate legal authority to the Corporation Counsel. We opened this provision by stating that the City of Stamford is a municipal corporation where the Corporation Counsel represents the entire municipal enterprise, including the Boards of Education, Finance and Representatives. While

¹ Although the procurement of such services differs from city-to-city.

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the Commission includes a proposal for a Staff Counsel, we reiterate that the:

- position is entirely discretionary: and,
- Corporation Counsel remains counsel to all departments of the City and the advice of that office should be solicited whether the Board of Representatives proceeds with Staff Counsel or not.

The proposed changes reflect that there will from time-to-time be a need for counsel and the legislative body should be able to move swiftly and without interference or delay to hire counsel, if deemed necessary by a majority of the Board of Representatives.

We also would like to reiterate that the standard for commencing an investigation has been reduced from a 2/3rd vote to a majority vote of the entire membership of the Board of Representatives. Likewise, the Board, by a vote of a majority of its entire membership, is conferred with the authority to appropriate or transfer monies to pay the fees and costs of an investigation or for the retention of counsel. This last provision, pertaining to transfers, is necessary for the simple reason that most legislative bodies in Connecticut have budgetary authority, including transfers.

Stamford's legislative body does not. In essence, the budgetary needs of the Board of Representatives are entirely dependent upon the good graces of the Mayor and Board of Finance. The law-making body of the City should not have to rely on the good will of other elected officials to conduct the business of the people they represent.

Sec. C3-10-4. Temporary Absence of Disability of the Mayor The Commission made some minor modifications in line with the Recommendation of the Board of Representative in order to clarify the manner in which the Acting Mayor is compensated. The Draft Report modifications were designed to clarify the protocols when the Mayor is temporarily absent or disabled and unable to fulfill the duties of office. The revisions clarify the order of succession for temporary services and the level of compensation for the Acting Mayor after a thirty-day period of time. As we noted at the time the Commission was responding to the BRC #4.a and a request by Mayor Simmons.

Sec. C3-10-14: Mayor's Role in Intergovernmental Relations. Under this provision the Mayor is recognized as the "principal representative of the City in intergovernmental relations and affairs with the federal and state governments." This simply codifies that which should be obvious. As the Corporation Counsel is the chief legal representative of the municipal corporation the Mayor is the chief spokesperson for the City. This doesn't mean that the Board of Representatives

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cannot hire outside counsel or that other elected officials cannot speak in Hartford or Washington, it just means that the Mayor is the official voice of the City.

Another point that needs to be made is that this provision does not infringe on the Mayor's ability to advocate for the City. She does not even need legislative support or authority to take action in Hartford, unless otherwise required by the General Statutes. Moreover, this provision is not designed to and should not be construed to require the Mayor report on meetings with state or federal officials or lobbyists or anybody involved in legislative advocacy on behalf of the City. It simply requires the Mayor to report on "legislative items and proposals." Just as the public must be notified about legislative items before the Board of Representatives or transfers before the Board of Finance, the people of Stamford and other officials in the City should be kept informed of any "legislative proposals" or "items" that the Mayor is supporting on behalf of the City in Hartford or Washington.

Sec. C6-00-3: Appointment and Removal². The attempts to resolve this issue have been met with fire and fury. It is hard to understand why. The process of appointment and approval is, on its face, a simple matter of proposing and approving or disapproving a nominee. It is the advice and consent process we all read about in history and civics classes in high school.

The problem in Stamford is that the current Charter provision has a loophole that gives the Mayor the right not to appoint; or, better put, the right to allow members to serve on a board and commission indefinitely. These are the "holdover" members of boards and commission you have been reading about during this process. This proposal does not take away the Mayor's authority to appoint. In fact, as you will see the Mayor who loses such authority under the current Charter after 120 days, never loses appointment authority in our proposal.

The Loophole: Defined. The loophole is best explained as follows: the Mayor has 120 days "after the expiration of the term " to appoint or reappoint a Board or Commission member. If the Mayor fails to make a nomination the authority to appoint defaults to the President of the Board of Representatives for the next 120 days. If the President fails to nominate or have approved a nominee the power reverts back to the Mayor for 90 days.

Where the process falls down is when neither the Mayor nor the President exercise their authority. The Charter provision ends there. There is a void or an abyss and no one has the power to appoint until there is a vacancy. That is the point. If the term is expired the member remains on

² There was a recommendation to "not make any changes in the mayoral appointments process." It should be noted that this notion was rejected and the Commission has proposed a revision that retains Mayoral appointment authority throughout the process and also addresses some administrative issues that have caused significant issues under the present charter language. The Commission strongly believes that this provision requires the changes it has recommended (080123).

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the Board or Commission until a successor is nominated, qualified and approved by the Board of Representatives. If the power to appoint no longer exists, the member can remain on the board or commission on an open-ended basis.

If you read the current Charter or Ordinances, it would be evident to you that Board and Commission members have defined terms of office. Another way of looking at it is that the term of a member is "fixed" or "set" to a finite period of years. That is the regular order.

That is not necessarily the case in Stamford. As in other municipalities the Stamford Charter permits a Board and Commission member to continue to hold office through the conclusion of their term of office or "until a successor has been approved by the Board of Representatives." There is also a provision in the current Charter which terminates the member's term six months following the expiration date, unless a successor has been approved³. In a prior Administration the Office of the Corporation Counsel opined that this provision was impracticable since it might lead to the dormancy of Boards and Commission that might be left without a quorum. That is, indeed, a practical problem; however, the greater problem is that legal opinion takes away the hammer that would force the Mayor to make an appointment.

**The power not to appoint" or "to extend a term indefinitely:
Origins of the Holdover Member** The Commission has been accused of *wresting the appointment authority away from the Mayor*. After you review the chart, below, you will see that is decidedly not the case. On the other hand since the Corporation Counsel opinion has negated the "six-month" proviso the Mayor now has the power "not to appoint" or the power "to extend the term of a member indefinitely" it would be fair to conclude that Commission does not believe that the Mayor should have the power to allow members to serve on Boards and Commissions indefinitely. That is the issue. This is not about the right role of the Mayor or usurpation of that role; it is about an abuse of the system that is permitted by the current Charter and bolstered by a legal opinion.

As you have probably figured out, "holdover members" are those who remain in office past their terms because the Mayor no longer possess the authority to appoint board and commission members. If you actually read the Final Report, you will find that this is the object of our concerns. In fact, if approved the Mayor will never lose the appointment authority. It may be

³ We would point out that if the Charter Revisions fail the "Six-month" proviso might provide a basis for a legal challenge to the "opinion" that has negated the six-month rule. Some have suggested that the Board of Representatives consider rejecting the CRC recommendation in the Draft Report to remove the six-month period set forth in Sec. C6-00-4. Of course, we can't so recommend; however, the to do so is within the discretion of the Board of Representatives.

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concurrent after 120 days term, but the Mayor will always be able to advance a nomination. The Mayor will not be able to manipulate the system to allow members to serve on Boards and commission indefinitely.

As you may recall at the time of the Draft Report, we stated that proposed revisions of this section “reforms the appointment protocols in order to avoid” holdover members of Boards and Commissions. If the Board of Representatives approves our Final Report and the voters agree, this problem should be solved by people of good faith and intentions.

This holdover problem infects many Boards and Commissions. While the current Mayor is working hard to fill the backlog of appointments, which accumulated prior to her election, there are many Board and Commission members from vital and critical bodies who have been left in office because the City is not enforcing the “six-month” rule and the Mayor’s appointment authority has actually lapsed⁴. As a result there are many Board and Commission members that have remained in office, even if they were rejected for reconfirmation. This makes no sense.

How does our recommendation for this provision attempt to remedy the issue? We say “attempt” because the words of the Charter do not solve the problem. The Charter only works if people work together on behalf of the public. We do believe that the proposed Final Report provides a platform for the people of Stamford.

- **Role of the Town and City Clerk⁵:** The Town and City Clerk is recognized as the keeper of the records and provides the Mayor and Board of Representatives with notice of the end of the term or of a vacancy on the Board or Commission. The current Charter is silent on when the appointment clock starts to tick either for the Mayor or the President of the Board of Representatives. It should be emphasized this kind of ministerial function is performed officially or unofficially by municipal clerks.
- **Board and Commission Appointments: 120 Day Rule.** Under this proposal the Mayor’s submission of a nominee must take place within 120 days of the notice of a vacancy or the expiration of a term of office.

⁴ It should be noted that under the current Charter the Mayor has an initial 120-day time-frame for appointment which upon lapsing reverts to the President of the Board of Representatives. If the President fails to appoint in the next 120-day timeframe the power reverts back to the Mayor for 90 days.

⁵ See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(a).

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Current	Proposed
Submission Requirement⁶: The Mayor submits annually after the first organizational meeting of the Board of Representatives nominees as members and alternates for Boards or Commissions where “a term of office has expired.” This provision does not refer to other “vacancies.”	Submission Requirement⁷: The Mayor submits nominees in response to a notice from the Town and City clerk pertaining to the “end of the term” or “other vacancies.”
Approval: Silent; although may be addressed in Sec. C2-10-6. ⁸	Approval: Majority of the Board of Representatives (with reference to the standard set forth in Sec. C2-10-6.
Deemed Approved⁹: If not approved by the Board of Representative within 90 days of submission	Deemed Approved¹⁰: Reduced the waiting period to 60 days.
The Initial 120 Day Timeline¹¹: In the event the “Mayor shall fail to submit a nomination to the Board of Representatives within 120 days after the expiration of a Board or Commission or alternate member’s term of office” the Mayor’s appointment authority lapses.	The Initial 120 Day Timeline¹² and February 15th Timeline: In the event the Mayor fails to submit an initial or subsequent nomination to the Board of Representatives within (a) the 120 Day timeline; or, *(b) the February 15 th timeline; the appointment authority shall, thereafter, shift to a concurrent authority.
Treatment of Holdover Members¹³: None.	Treatment of Holdover Members¹⁴. Requires the Mayor to appoint on or before the 15 th of February following approval the Charter or thereafter following the election of a Mayor.
Subsequent 120 Day Timeline – President of the Board as Sole Appointing Authority¹⁵: The appoint authority shifts to the President of the Board of Representatives.	Subsequent 120 Day Timeline – Concurrent Appointment Authority of Mayor and President of the Board¹⁶: concurrently vest in both the Mayor and President of the Board of Representatives for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) Days thereafter, as shall be certified by the Town and City Clerk (“Concurrent Authority Timeline”).

⁶ See, Sec. C6-00-3(a)(first and second sentences). There is only a reference to filling a “vacancy” in the provision which restores the Mayor’s appointment authority for a ninety-day period.

⁷ See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(a) and (b).

⁸ Presumably the standard is the one set forth in Sec. C2-10-6 entitled “Quorum.” Which requires a “majority of the entire membership of the Board of Representatives to adopt an Ordinance or appropriation resolution; however a “majority of the members present and voting for any other resolution.”

⁹ See, Sec. C6-00-3(a)(fourth sentence).

¹⁰ See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(b)(9).

¹¹ See, Sec. C6-00-3(a)(fifth sentence).

¹² See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(b)(5).

¹³ See, Sec. C6-00-4(a) which includes a six-month extension or approval by the Board of Representatives, whichever occurs first. The Corporation Counsel has opined and rendered the “six-month” end-date impracticable or unenforceable because it may leave some Boards and Commission without a quorum.

¹⁴ See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(b)(3) – (4).

¹⁵ See, Sec. C6-00-3(a)(fifth sentence).

¹⁶ See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(b)(5) - (7).

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Current	Proposed
90 Day Appointment Authority¹⁷: The appointment authority reverts to the Mayor.	Final Step¹⁸: The Mayor retains concurrent authority with each member of the Board of Representative by majority vote.
Effective Date of Nominee¹⁹: Upon Approval by the Board of Representatives.	Effective Date of Nominee²⁰: No change.
Limitations on Nominations²¹: The Mayor's nominations shall be submitted to the Board of Representatives at its next regular meeting. In the event the Board of Representatives rejects a nomination, the Mayor shall submit a new nomination or resubmit the rejected nomination to the Board of Representatives at its next regular meeting, provided that the Mayor may not submit the same name more than two times.	Limitation on Nominations²²: No change.

As you can plainly see, the only power the new Charter provisions would be wresting away from the Mayor is the power to keep holdover members on Board and Commission long after their terms are over. For example, the current members of the Planning Board have terms that ended as far back as 2017 and as recently as 2022. The term of the Chair of Zoning Board expired on December 1, 2017.

What possible excuse would exist for this unacceptable circumstance that has spanned two Mayoral Administrations? Political expediency? Lethargy? Accommodation? Partisan impasse? Under the current charter once there is a lapse of the Mayor or President's appointment authority under the 120-day rule or the 90-day rule...there is an abyss. There is no appointment authority. This permits the Mayor to simply retain political friends on Boards and Commission until they all choose to move on. That is not the way government should work²³.

Provisions impacted and removed from the Final Report due to the enactment of P.A. 23-205. In light of the enactment of P.A. 23-205 these provisions that were designed to increase public engagement in the land use processes of the City are eliminated from our Final Report.

¹⁷ See, Sec. C6-00-3(a)(Sixth sentence).

¹⁸ See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(b)(8).

¹⁹ See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(a)(third sentence).

²⁰ See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(b)(third sentence).

²¹ See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(b).

²² See, Proposed Sec. C6-00-3(b)(fourth sentence).

²³ In light of the fact that P.A. 23-205 prohibits any effort to increase public engagement in the land use processes of the City, this provision has become more and more significant.

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- Sec. C6-30-001: Expanded the definition of “landowner” to include individual condominium owners;
- Sec. C6-30-002: Established the Town and City Clerk as the repository for land use petitions as an independent arbiter of signature validity;
- Sec. C6-30-003: Created new notice and publication requirements for the Planning and Zoning Boards;
- Sec. C6-30-004: Required land use boards and commissions to refrain from making decisions on the same date as a public hearing in order to at least, give the impression that public testimony was actually considered;
- Sec. C6-30-005: Pre-development neighborhood outreach and engaged regarding projects in excess of twenty units;
- Sec. C6-30-4: Restoration of current Master Plan language²⁴;
- Sec. C6-30-6(b): Neighborhood outreach;
- Sec. C6-30-8(a): Signature requirements;
- Sec. C6-30-9: Additional public hearings;
- Sec. C6-30-12: Enhanced publication requirements;
- Sec. C6-30-15: Additional public hearing requirements;
- Sec. C6-30-19: Definition of subdivision moved and reinstated;
- Sec. C6-40-2 through -4: Public hearing and neighborhood outreach pertaining to the Zoning Map²⁵;
- Sec. C6-40-5 and -6: Signature requirements;
- Sec. C6-40-7 - 9 and -11: Public hearing, notice and outreach requirements; and,
- Sec. C6-120-3: Public Hearing requirements²⁶.

Comment on the lost land use provisions: Public accountability and engagement. This is not the appropriate forum to question the propriety, motives or political judgment involved in this legislation, which was adopted without notice or public hearing on the last night of the General Assembly Session. We will leave that for another time or another place. What we can comment on is the impact of that legislation on the work of the Charter Revision Commission.

If you read the newspapers or listen to the opponents of the land use provisions of the Draft Report you would think that the sky was falling and that the Commission was comprised of:

²⁴ The Commission considered Representative Ley’s thoughtful recommendation (Sec. C6-30-4) regarding treating the Master Plan as the Plan of Conservation and Development (“PCOD”); however, in the last analysis chose not to tread into any gray areas in light of the new legislation (081023).

²⁵ Again, Representative Ley presented another recommendation (Sec. C6-40-2 through -4) pertaining to the PCOD which was not considered in light of the reach of P.A. 23-205 (0810-23).

²⁶ The Commission reviewed and rejected a proposal to add “school purposes” to the “other uses” subject to this provision. Additional time for due diligence would have been beneficial.

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- a gaggle of narrow-minded dogmatists opposed to low- and moderate-income housing; or,
- a cadre of anti-development activists hellbent on undermining grand list growth.

Neither of these attacks is true. In fact, we would argue that those attacks are not any more credible than the assertion that most of the attacks have been lodged by those who:

- may be beholden to private development interests; or,
- pretend to support low- and moderate-income development while they show an utter disregard for low- and moderate-income neighborhoods that will never return to our City; or,
- decry the composition of the Charter Commission because they wanted to dominate the Commission with their retainers and supporters.

In our view it is not fair to generalize in either case. However, now you know what you will hear from those who oppose this Final Report.

Throughout the process, these supporters of unbridled, unaccountable and unchecked development created a false narrative. It appears they also doubt their ability to persuade the voters of the merits of the position since they hollowed out one of the major components of the Draft Report with the midnight hour legislative enactment. They also spent and continue to spend a great deal of time attacking the members of this Commission, individually and collectively.

For the record, at the risk of sounding defensive, we should point out that our Commission is a diverse group of Stamford citizens from a variety of neighborhoods and backgrounds ranging from public employees and lawyers, Republicans and Democrats, citizen activists and financial analysts, liberals and conservatives, private business people and current or past elected officials. None of the members of this Commission were beholden to the private financial interests who have stoked the fires of opposition to the Draft Report or just about any proposal that is being advanced by the Charter Revision Commission.

As the Chair of this Commission, the undersigned applauds the Board of Representatives for the fine job it did when it appointed this Commission.

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We are grateful for the confidence shown by the Board and have tried to create a product that is worthy of your trust.

To bring this argument home we would like to ask why anyone would believe that adding additional public hearings or deliberations; or, drafting robust notice requirements and neighborhood outreach; or, expanding the rights of condominium owners to sign land use appeal petition signatures, are somehow anti-development or insular and narrow-minded. In fact, we believe that public outreach would enable many in our remaining moderate and low-income communities a greater voice in this process. The irony is that so many of our members are neighborhood advocates that want to retain our diverse, neighborhoods and would join with those advocates throughout our state and nation who seek to desegregate our communities. The false narrative driven by those who opposed the Draft Report and our planning provisions created a bizarre marriage of strange bedfellows. They derailed our important initiatives; however, they continue to trash-talk the rest of this package. As we move toward deliberations of the Board of Representatives, please carefully consider the arguments and please read our proposals.

Sec. C6-190-3 and C6-210-3: Retain the Fair Rent Function at the Social Services Commission. The Commission agreed to retain the Fair Rent Commission authority with the Social Services Commission.

Sec. C8-20-9: Retain the Cap on the Rainy-Day Fund. The Commission restored the 5% cap to Rainy Day Fund transfers.

Sec. C8-30-10(b)(4): Delete Capital Project Public Hearings. The Commission agreed to delete the requirement for a Joint Multiagency Public Hearing pertaining to amendments to the Capital Budget²⁷.

Sec. C9-40-1: Conditional land use transition provisions. Transition provisions were created pertaining to definitions of "owner," "landowner," and "Zone" as well as petition filing requirements with the Town and City Clerk, including a severability clause.

Other Recommendations not Included in the Final Report

Sec. C6-40-4. Request to revert to 12 months was accomplished by operation o P.A. No. 23-205 which required that the existing language be reinstated (072923).

²⁷ The Commission reviewed all the proposed and current provision for multi-board hearings. It retained all except those which were proposed for land use and precluded by P.A. 23-205 and it reluctantly eliminated the multi-board hearings during the capital budget amendment process.

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Sec. C6-120-3. Establish consistency between the definition of long-term lease with Sec. C1-50-3 and establish administrative procedures for dealing with short-term uses of City property/buildings. Prohibited by P.A. No. 23-205 (072923).

Stipend for Board of Representative members. This item was considered earlier in the process and was revisited. The Commission concluded that the Board of representatives may consider this matter by Ordinance and through the budget process. Moreover, the matter is specifically controlled by state law. (072923)

Preclude multiple office holding by any member of Stamford's elected boards, including membership on political committees, including but not limited to the democratic city committee and/or the republican town committee. The Commission did not consider this since this issue is a matter that should be addressed by the political parties. It is also may raise constitutional issues as well. (072923)

Two Tiers of Board Committees. Divide Board committees into two tiers, excluding Steering and Special Committees. Tier 1 includes Appointments, Fiscal, Legislative & Rules, and Operations. Tier 2 includes Personnel, Parks & Recreation, Education, Transportation, and State & Commerce. Each representative may serve as a voting member of only one Tier 1 Committee at a time. Each representative may serve as a voting member of only one Special Committee at a time. The Commission determined that this matter could be dealt with in the Rules of the Board of Representatives (072923).

Public Outreach. Replace the Commission's recommendations on required public outreach by requiring the Planning and Zoning Boards to consider an applicant's public outreach efforts and achievements as a factor in evaluating the applicant's proposal. The PB or ZB may deny the applicant's proposal or defer its decision if it concludes that the applicant's public outreach efforts or achievements were inadequate. Prohibited by P.A. No. 23-205 (072923).

Expense Reimbursement for (1) Elected Boards to Attend Board and Committee Meetings in Person; and (2) Elected Boards to Attend Board and Committee Meetings in Person. This is an issue that should be considered by the Board of Representatives and be adopted by Ordinance. There are also various state laws that address this issue and should be considered by the Board. (072923).

Members of Elected Boards Earning Compensation for Serving on a Campaign Staff -Prohibit members of an elected Board from earning

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compensation (other than expense reimbursement) from another office seeker's election campaign, provided that the campaign receives public funding. The Commission concluded that if the thrust of this provision is to address a potential conflict of interest, then the more appropriate approach is to address this issue in the Code of Ethics (072923).

Define "Quorum" in the Charter. Define "quorum" in the Charter as "more than 50% of the elected and appointed members of a Board or Commission, with duly elected or appointed alternates included when they substitute for a member." This is already a defined term in the C2-20-6 of the Charter. No action was taken by the Commission (072923).

Consequences for Failing to Meet Deadlines for Filing Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports - Suspend voting privileges at Board and Committee meetings for elected officials who have failed to file campaign finance disclosure reports on time, until such time as those tardy reports have been filed. This is a title 9 issue and within the purview of the Office of the Secretary of the State or the State Elections Enforcement Commission. The Commission rejected this proposal (072923).

Of the Entire Membership" Voting Requirements for Elected Boards - To the extent permissible by law, eliminate all "of the entire membership" voting requirements for elected boards and replace them with "all members present and voting." The Commission rejected this item since the Charter was replete with different voting standards and would require a more extensive review than possible during this phase of the Charter revision process (072923).

Change the Charter in order to give the BOR appointment authority for a majority of the members of the Planning Board, EPB, Zoning Board, and the Zoning Appeals Board by the Board, as vacancies on the Board may arise. Reject in the context of P.A. No. 23-205 (080123).

Change the Charter from a 2/3^{rds} to 3/5^{ths} vote to override a Mayoral veto. Rejected since the 2/3^{rds} standard appears to be the consensus standard for most municipalities in Connecticut (080123).

Secs. C1-70-3; C1-80-1; C6-210-1, et seq. Changing the Board of Ethics from being appointed by the Mayor and the Board of Representatives to become elected officials by the people. Their terms should run like the Mayor and Board of Representatives. Rejected on the basis that the Board of ethics should remain nonpolitical and there is nothing nonpolitical about an election process (080123).

Sec. C6-40-1. Include consideration of protecting the state's historic, tribal, cultural and environmental resources among the duties of the Zoning

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Board. The Commission believes that these considerations are already incorporated in the zoning regulations and, as a result, rejected the proposal. The Commission further believed that amending the powers of the Zoning Board would be prohibited by PA 23-205. (080123).

Recommend postponing vote on charter revision until 2024. Consideration of this matter was rejected by the Commission since this is a statutory responsibility of the Board of Representatives (080123).

The Board of Representatives President may only nominate candidates for all committee memberships, subject to majority vote by the full Board. Consideration of this matter was rejected by the Commission since this is a matter more appropriate to the rules of the Board of Representatives (080123).

Reduce the size of the Board of Representatives from 40 to 20 representatives with only one representative from each district. The Commission considered this issue prior to the Draft Report. There was no new information provided to the Commission. As a result, this matter was rejected by the Commission (080123).

What is the magnitude of change that the charter revision is willing to make at the request of the City of Stamford Legal counsel? The Commission did not understand this question and no additional information was presented; thus, rejected the matter (080123).

Change the budget process from annual to biennial. This issue was addressed by the Commission during its earlier proceedings. There was conflicting opinion discussed by City officials at that time, Moreover, the City is not a sovereign and, thus, has no authority to approve a two-year mill rate. The item was rejected by the Commission (080123).

Add a Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (“DEI”) and create a Cabinet-level Director of DEI. This issue was discussed earlier in the process but was revisited by the Commission. The Administration has the flexibility to add this position if it chooses to do so by asking the Board of Representatives to create a department by Ordinance and, then funding it during the budget process. Accordingly, the Commission rejected this recommendation (080123).

Change the swearing-in date for incoming Mayors from early December to early January. Attorney Mednick informed the Commission that many of the larger municipalities were moving toward a longer transition time-frame after elections. However, due to the fact it would impact other elected positions there was no time to conduct the appropriate levels of necessary due diligence. The Commission rejected this recommendation (080123).

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Separate the Office of Operations' regulatory functions from its operational functions and create a Cabinet-level Director of Operations Management position to review and update each department's practices and procedures. The Commission rejected these notions because they were too vague and no further information was provided to justify such an action (080123).

Create a seven-person Pension Fund Management Board (1 each from BOR, BOF, Director of Administration, and 4 mayoral appointees), with each Pension Board having 1 ex officio member. The Commission had addressed this issue prior to issuing its Draft Report. There are five different pension plans and this recommendation would probably require more deliberation and, possibly, alteration of collective bargaining agreements, which is well beyond the authority of the Commission. The recommendation was rejected (080123).

Simplify the Land Use permitting process by eliminating administrative silos. The recommendation was vague and no additional information was provided by the sponsor. This might also encroach on the restrictions imposed by P.A. 23-205. The Commission rejected the recommendation (080123).

Require leaders of professional departments (e.g., Engineering) to have administrative experience as well as technical experience. The Commission noted that these requirements might be addressed in the civil service rules or a job description. There was no time in the statutory frame-work for the Commission to address this issue at this stage of the process (080123).

Themes and Findings of the Commission

Upon reading the Charge of the Board of Representatives and the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission you will undoubtedly discern a steadfast adherence to the notion that a municipal Charter should encourage and facilitate public engagement. The Charter should be accessible to the reader and allow a citizen to understand the rules of the road when they seek government redress.

The Final Report retains many new provisions that bolster public participation, with the exception of those prohibited by PA. No. 23-205. These proposed revisions address the issue of public engagement in many provisions of the Charter.

It starts with the definitions, discussed below, where we provide significant definitions designed to fully utilize new technologies that were used of necessity during the pandemic. When a convenor of a meeting or a member of the public wants to know what constitutes a **"Public Meeting"** or how **"Public Notice,"**

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“Meeting Notice” or “Hearing Notice” are dealt with there a number of provisions designed to facilitate public involvement. For example, the “Meeting” and “Hearing Notice” provisions includes a requirement for the “City and Town Clerk and other City officials will be responsible for using best efforts to ensure maximum public distribution of notice in order to maximize participation; particularly where a legislative, regulatory or other item may impact particular neighborhoods or portions of the City.”

The definition of "Public Notice" requires:

- Publication or posting on the official City website and such electronic or other media as may be required by Law, the Charter or Ordinance.
- Notice to at least one local news media, including, but not limited to, print, electronic and broadcast media.
- Content of Public Notice shall be specifically as set forth in the Charter; or, as otherwise required by Ordinance, and must be reviewed and revised by the Board of Representatives on a biennial basis.
- Strict compliance with the requirements of the General Statutes, if any and shall include a summary description of all matters so noticed and encourages more stringent requirements protective of the public interest

These themes are found throughout our Final Report. For example, there is an additional pre-budget joint public hearings in public hearing in September of each year, prior to the beginning of the process.

There was an effort to include greater public awareness and involvement in the land use provisions of the Charter; however, those provision are eliminated from the Final Report due to the impact of P.A. 23-205. We repeat our consternation and amazement at the level of criticism regarding these provisions that resulted in the state legislation. As we have said the elimination of these accountability standards is regrettable; yet, beyond the authority of the Commission and the Board of Representatives to do anything about.

Even without those provisions, we continue to believe that the work of our five committees and fifteen members were advanced in the public interest...for the public good.

Approved Actions of the Charter Revision Commission.

The Preamble has been revised to include recognition of diversity of residents in Stamford, equal opportunity for all residents, condemnation of

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prejudice, commitment to a healthy environment for all residents; and, sustainability of our coastal community (BRC #1.a – City Departments Committee).

Part 1 – Organization and Election Procedures

Sec. C1-10-3 is reorganized with headers that identify the components of the provision for the reader of the Charter. **Sec. C1-10-3(3)** sets forth the objective to attain “optimal public accessibility” in order to encourage public engagement through efforts to migrate toward all technologies necessary to reach as many people as possible (BRC #2.b and #3.c – City Departments).

Sec. C1-10-4(1) expands the definitions from the current six (Public Notice, Data Department or Agency, Municipality, Capital Project and General Statutes) to twenty. Most significantly, the current definition of “Public Notice” is expanded to include “electronic” and other media. It also requires content to be identified and requires the Board of Representatives to review notice requirements on a biennial basis.

There are also a number of definitions that are designed to provide the user of the Charter an understanding of terms commonly used in the document:

- Board of Representatives
- Board or Commission
- Capital Project
- Charter
- Days
- Law
- Mayor
- Meeting
- Meeting or Hearing Notice
- Newspaper Notice
- Meeting or Public Meeting
- Public Hearing
- Resolution
- Special Acts or Special Laws
- State or Connecticut
- State Constitution

(BRC #3.e City Departments)

Sec. C1-90-1 requires the attorney hired by the Board of representatives in a “removal” proceeding to be an attorney licensed to practice law in the state for ten years, five of which (instead of ten) were spent practicing in Connecticut.

Part 2 – Legislative Body

Sec. C2-10-2(9) clarifies that the authority of the Board of Representatives with respect to contracts includes all amendments and multi-year agreements (BRC #3.b – City Departments) .

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Part 3 – The Mayor’s Powers

Sec. C3-10-13 is a scrivener’s correction that aligns the filing of the Annual Report of the Mayor with the Public Notice definition (BRC #4.c – City Departments)

Part 4 – Other Elective Officers

No recommendations.

Part 5 – City Departments

Sec. C5-20-2 increases the baseline experience for the Corporation Counsel from good standing in the Connecticut Bar and five years of practice in our state to a minimum of ten years’ experience of law practice with, at least, five in the State of Connecticut (BRC #6.e – City Departments).

Sec. C5-20-3 reflects the fact that the retention of counsel for the Board of Representatives is a legislative function with the exception of the Corporation Counsel consultation on conflicts of interest. This issue was addressed in Sec. C2-10-3, above (BRC #6.f – City Departments).

Sec. C5-20-5 requires the Corporation Counsel to issue and publish an annual report regarding the state of legal matters for the City, including, pending cases, resolved litigation, completed transactions, expenditures of the City and public schools administered by the Board of Education, current staffing levels in the Legal Division among other items requested by the Mayor, Board of Finance or Board of Representatives (Finance).

Sec. C5-20-15 includes staff counsel to the Board of Representatives as a member of the unclassified service.

Sec. C5-20-20 specifies the following employees required to remain resident-electors of the City, subject to the oversight of the Personnel Director: Director of Public Safety or equivalent position; Director of Operations or equivalent position; Corporation Counsel; Personnel Director or equivalent position; Police Chief or equivalent positions; Assistant Police Chief, or equivalent positions; Fire Chief or equivalent position; and, Assistant Fire Chief or equivalent positions (BRC #6.i – City Departments).

Sec. C5-40-3(d) is a minor edit changing the word “their” to “there” (BRC #6.l – City Departments)

Sec. C5-40-3(h), Sec. C5-5-3(b)(8) and Sec. C8-40-5(b) change the term “Municipal Engineer” to “City Engineer.”

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Sec. C5-50-2(i) requires the Director of Administration to file reports twice a year pertaining to (a) the status of the general fund cash surplus, or; in the alternative, the deficit at the end of the current fiscal year, to be accounted for during the budget process; (b) comparison of Itemized estimates of expenditures, presenting the actual expenditures for each Budgeted Entity for the last completed fiscal year to the current fiscal year prior measured both in dollar terms and by percentage; (c) comparison of revenues to date against the projections for the current fiscal year and against that of the last completed fiscal year; (d) actual expenditures for total debt service, including principal and interest figures, measured against the requirements for the ensuing fiscal year; including, a schedule of maturities of bond issues; (e) amounts expended to meet contractual provisions of collective bargaining agreements (and other side agreements relating thereto) pertaining to minimum mandatory workforce and overtime requirements; and (f) such other information as may be required by the Board of Finance or the Board of Representatives.

Part 6 – Boards and Commissions

Sec. C6-00-1(l), (r) and (s) create the ADA/Diversity, Equity Inclusion Commission (**Sec. C6-270-1 et seq.**); Housing Commission (**Sec. C6-00-2 and C6-210-1 et seq.**); Harbor Management Commission (**Sec. C6-75-1 et seq.**) and Mental Health Commission (Sec. C6-150-1) (BRC #7a.-d – Appointed Boards).

Sec. C6-00-4 is a companion to Sec. C6-00-3, above. In this case it allows “alternate” members of Boards and Commissions to take the place of a hold-over members, if the “alternate” is not a holdover (BRC #7.f – Appointed Boards).

Sec. C6-00-10 is a provision that requires cooperation of all officials and department employees with members of Boards and Commissions and vice versa (Finance).

Sec. C6-10-2 requires the Superintendent of Schools to keep fiscal control records and provide other information as may be required by the Charter. The standard is currently discretionary (Finance).

Sec. C6-10-3 adds references to “subject of budgetary processes” and changes the word “purchasing” to “Procurement” (Finance).

Sec. C6-10-4 is a new requirement for the Board of Education to file twice a year all contracts (including, agreements, memoranda of understanding, memoranda of agreement, letters of understanding, side letters and other agreements) entered into on behalf of the Board on its own or on behalf of the City including but not limited to, those executed within the budget limits or other authority established by the Board of Education and/or the annual budget process

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(including operating and capital). This requirement specifically excludes all such contracts as may be exempted from disclosure by federal or state Law or otherwise not capable of redaction in order to protect statutory privacy rights of individuals (Finance).

Sec. C6-30-22 is proposed to be deleted because the treatment of the alternate members of these agencies is already covered elsewhere in the Charter (Land Use).

Sec. C6-75-1 and Sec. C6-75-2 add the Harbor Management Commission to the appointed boards and commissions section of the Charter (Land Use).

Sec. C6-100-1 requires the Mayor to appoint members to the Health Commission who “possess experience and qualifications in public health, environmental health and community outreach” (Appointed Boards).

Sec. C6-130-4 creates a dedicated funding source for the city owned golf course from revenues to the City generated by lease payments and other income from the Golf Authority. The provisions are limited to a 10-year time-frame to allow the golf course to reverse its current funding levels (Finance).

Sec. C6-150-1 creates a Mental Health Commission (Appointed Boards).

Sec. C6-210-1 creates a Housing Commission (Appointed Boards).

Part 7 – Pensions

Sec. C7-10-9 requires the City to act as the Plan Sponsor for any Deferred Compensation Plan created in accordance with the requirements of sections 457 or 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for classified and unclassified employees. This includes the executive and administrative powers granted to the Mayor under Sec. C3-10-1 and other administrative responsibilities (Finance).

Sec. C7-30-2(c) is a minor revision that would return unclaimed funds to the pertinent pension fund (Finance).

Part 8 – Budgetary Procedures

Sec. C8-10-2 represents starting point for the restructuring of the budgetary procedures in Part 8 of the Charter. In this section the Charter requires good faith cooperation between all the officials involved in the budget process; two-year budgeting estimates; and, expected standards of conduct including best practices, accountability, transparency and outreach, all intended to expand public participation (Finance).

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Sec. C8-10-3 establishes a standard of accountability by asserting the standard that the budget is a public record and that the process is a public process, both notions that should be self-evident; yet, not always treated that way. This provision establishes a Charter expectation and standard (BRC #9.c - Finance).

Sec. C8-10-4 creates a linear budget calendar allowing public officials and members of the public to view the process from the commencement of the process through the end (BRC #9.c - Finance).

Sec. C8-20-1 continues the theme of public engagement by creating a “multilateral” budget meeting in the month of September for the purpose of eliciting public comment on the budget prior to the commencement of the data gathering for the next budget process (BRC #9.c - Finance).

Sec. C8-20-2 establishes the authority of the Mayor to require operating and capital budget information from each of the Budgeted Entities, including the Board of Education. Again, the authority should be evident; however, this provision makes it clear (Finance).

Sec. C8-20-3 through – 6 reorganize the current early steps of the capital projects budget process (BRC #9.d – Finance).

Sec. C8-20-7 and -8 set forth the requirements to be included in the operating and capital budgets. This provision clarifies that the Mayor’s proposed budget includes the “education appropriation” and not the line-item budget of the Board of Education. The line-item budget would be attached as an addendum, as set forth in Sec C8-20-11 (Finance).

Sec. C8-20-9 is a reorganized presentation of the section that deals with “contingency appropriations and “rainy day funds.” The provisions do not contain detailed information regarding “contingency funds” (Finance).

Sec. C8-20-10 makes it clear that the preliminary tax rate estimate is due when the Mayor proposes a budget to the Boards of Finance and Representatives. While this appears to be the practice, the Charter is currently silent on the timing. (Finance).

Sec. C8-20-11 represents a minor modification. This provision is currently referred to as the “preliminary budget of the Board of Education.” The new terminology is “Board of Education Budget Information” since the only matter before the Boards of Finance and Representatives is the “education appropriation.” The change in language is consistent with the role of the general government over the Board of Education operating budget. That is not the case on the capital side of the budget (Finance).

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Sec. C8-30-1 through -5 are essentially a recodification of the current budget process, with a few modifications. First, under **Sec. C8-30-1(c)(1)** there is an initial joint hearing on the capital budget by the Boards of Finance and Representatives, including a time lapse following the last public hearing to ensure the bodies will take the public testimony into account. Second, there is new language in **Sec. C8-30-3(b)(2)** that states very clearly that the role of Boards of Finance and Representatives with respect to the education appropriation is controlled entirely by the General Statutes. This language replaces some ambiguous language in the current charter. Finally, **Sec. C8-30-4** reiterates the current standard for setting the mill rate with language that used to appear in the preliminary mill rate provision. It should be noted that unlike the ministerial function that setting the mill rate is in most communities, in Stamford the Board of Finance has the sole authority to increase the mill rate taking into account items that the Board “deems proper,” including, but not limited to “...estimated unbudgeted additional appropriations for the next fiscal year, funding of pension costs, and the prior year's deficit or surplus” (Finance).

Sec. C8-40-5 establishes a time-frame for tax assessment adjustments stemming from the extension of sanitary sewer service to a taxpayer.

Final Points.

As we conclude this letter, we want to bring to your attention a couple of essential issues that the Board of Representatives and the members of the public deserve to know.

First of all, in order to do justice to the matters you sent before us, the Commission divided itself into following five committees:

Committee	Members
Appointed Boards	Michael Larobina, Chair, Jeanette Bilicznianski, Cynthis Bowser, Frances Lane and Steven Kolenberg
City Departments	Clemon Williams, Chair; Frances Lane, Thomas Lombardo, J.R. McMullen and Anthony Pramberger
Elected Officials	Anthony Pramberger, Chair, Michael Larobina, Thomas Lombardo, J.R. McMullen and Jackie Pioli
Finance	Shelley Michelson, Chair, Susan Halpern, Steven Kolenberg, Alex Martinez and Clemon Williams
Land Use	Steven Loeb, Chair, Cynthis Bowser, Karen Camporeale, Susan Halpern and Shelley Michelson

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In addition to the twenty-six full Commission meetings, there were sixty or so additional meetings attended by many if not most of the members of the Commission over the course of almost fifteen months. This was a Commission that devoted endless hours to prepare the package that is before you.

Second, it is important to emphasize that our Final Report was not drafted in a vacuum. There has been a great deal of unjustified criticism that the Commission had pre-conceptions about the issues it addressed, the outcomes it reached and, reaching these conclusions failed to reach out to members of the Administration for assistance and information. We would like to point out that the user-friendly reorganization of the budget process was worked on in tandem with the former Director of Administration. Drafts were provided to that office and reviewed by the professional staff that advises the Mayor and her administrators.

Once again, to make this point we are providing you with a complete record of all the individuals who we worked with and heard from during this process. This does not include the multiple public hearings and public comment sessions conducted by the Commission during its due diligence phase:

Mayor Simmons	Former Mayor Martin	Former Mayor Pavia
Former Mayor Malloy	Chief of Staff Fox	Rep. Curtis President BOR
Rep. Bewkes	Rep. Boeger	Rep. Cottrell
Rep. Fedeli Minority Leader	Rep. Sherwood Majority Leader	BOE Member Chery
BoE Member Duplaise	BoE Member Esses	BOE Member George
BOE Member Hamman	BOE Member Heftman	Chair Stein Zoning Board
Chair Dell Planning Board	Chair Piggott Zoning Board of Appeals	Mr. Lunney Zoning Enforcement Officer
Chair Ortelli Harbor Management Comm.	Attorney Dalena Former Corporation Counsel	Clerk Ruijter Town and City Clerk
Director Quinones Director of Operations	Director Dennies Director of Administration (x3)	Controller Yanik
Director Crain Senior Centers	Director Cowan Social Services	Director Bishop-Pullen Health
Director Cava Human Resources/Custodian + CERF Pension Funds (x2)	Director Carpenter Grants	Chair Freedman Board of Finance (x3)
Member Mahoney Board of Finance (x2)	Rep. DiConstanzo Chair, BOR Fiscal Committee	Rep. Miller Chair, BOR Fiscal Committee

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Dr. Slnani
OPM Director

Assistant Director Berta
OPM

Mr. Romano
OPM Budget Manager

Dr. Lucero
Supt. Of Schools

Director Dealey
Director of Finance (SPS)

Vice Chair Briscoe
Stamford Golf Comm.

Supt. Nagashima
Ground Supt.

Vice Chair Rinaldi
Board of Finance (x2)

Member McMullen
Board of Finance

Member Burwick
Board of Finance

Member Alswanger
Board of Finance

Ms. Sielman
Actuary, Pension Fund

Mr. Noto
Police Pension Fund

Mr. Gold
Fire Pension Fund

Mr. Anderson
Fire Pension Fund

Ms. Heffman
Custodian Pension Fund

Attorney Cassone
Corporation Counsel

Attorney Dawson
Bond Counsel

Mr. Blessing
Land Use Bureau Chief

Attorney Toma
Assistant Corporation Counsel

Ms. Hughes
Director, DEI

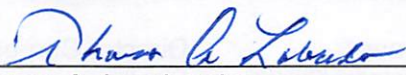
While there were over one-hundred separate items before the Commission this review was not intended to be an overhaul of our Charter. It was a piecemeal, step-by-step analysis of the specific items in the charge.

The Charter of the City is essentially our constitution. It lays out the form of government, the procedures to be followed in creating laws and the rules that govern the conduct of our public officials. When a citizen picks up the Charter, they should be able to find what they are looking for. In many respects, the current Charter of the City of Stamford is a well-organized document that addresses the myriad of issues and challenges facing our City. While this Commission did not have carte blanche to address massive structural issues; you can see from our revisions of the Budgetary Procedures that this Charter can be re-organized and revised so that it is more readable, linear and less cumbersome.

Thank you for asking us to serve and for the confidence you placed in our service to the City of Stamford. We look forward to your final deliberations on the Final Report.

Respectfully submitted,

STAMFORD 19th CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

By: 
Thomas A. Lombardo
Chair