

17TH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Public Safety & Health/Education/Ethics Committee

www.stamfordcharterrevision.org

C/O Office of the Board of Representatives, 4th Floor, Government Center,
888 Washington Blvd. P.O. Box 10152, Stamford, CT 06904

Tel: (203) 977-4024 · Fax: (203) 977-5503 · E-Mail: charterrevision@ci.stamford.ct.us

Jay H. Sandak, Chair

Members

CLARENCE R. GREBEY, III

MICHAEL C. JACHIMCZYK

GAIL S. OKUN

ROBERT S. ROBINS

MINUTES March 20, 2012

The 17th Charter Revision Commission Public Safety & Health/Education/Ethics Committee was called to order by Chair Jay Sandak at 6:30 on March 20, 2012. All committee members were in attendance; Jay Sandak, Clarence Grebey, Gail Okun, Robert Robins, and Michael Jachimczyk. Also in attendance were members of the Volunteer Fire Service and Dudley Williams, a Commission member.

A motion was made to take an item out of order of the agenda so Mr. Tarzia could address the committee. Mr. Tarzia raised the issue of members of the Board of Ethics being involved in political matters. He suggested that the city charter should follow the state statute regarding political participation on the State Board of Ethics, thereby avoiding the appearance of impropriety. He also suggested that the Board of Ethics should have a line item budget for investigations.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 13, 2012.

A discussion followed on the fire service issues and the results of the survey conducted gathering information on state communities that have combined fire services. Mr. Sandak suggested that the basic issues involved command, staffing, and funding. He gave a brief history of fire service in Stamford and the difficulties since 2007. Mr. Sandak polled the committee members for their opinions on the discussion points and whether the Charter should allow for unity of command while preserving the volunteer service. Various points were presented which focused on the problems that exist, the role of the Fire Commission, the concept of a unified command, and the need for a more efficient fire service. It was generally agreed that the group wanted to institutionalize the volunteer service giving them "a seat at the table" going forward. It was agreed that there was a need to have a structure in place so each side is protected. Integration of command was suggested as well as an confederated system where everyone would be equal. The

issue of whether a single Fire Marshal office was needed for unity in interpreting the state fire code was raised and discussed.

An effort will be made to have the fire service questionnaires on the website for those who are interested.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Okun

This meeting is on [video](#)