

## MEMORANDUM

January 3, 2010

Mayor Pavia  
Board of Representatives  
Planning Board  
Board of Finance  
Corporation Counsel  
All of the City of Stamford

Re: Joint Planning Board and Board of Finance Meeting Required by Sec.  
C8-20-2 of the City's Charter for Capital Budget

Dear Mayor and Members of the Board of Representative,  
Planning Board and Board of Finance:

Section C8-20-2 of the Charter requires a joint meeting among the Planning Board, the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives for the department heads to present their capital budgets. This joint meeting should have been scheduled on or before December 15, 2009, but was not. By way of this memo, I am asking the Mayor to schedule the joint meeting. Although it should be unnecessary, if the Corporation Counsel opines that it is not the Mayor's duty and the Mayor does not schedule the meeting, I am requesting Corporation Counsel's opinion as to whose duty is it to schedule the mandated joint meeting. Tim Abbazia and I will schedule the meeting and I hope all other elected and appointed officials will join us in this effort.

The Board of Finance, in addition to the Planning Board, has responsibilities for the proposed capital budget. Before the Planning Board can take final action on the capital budget it must receive from the Board of Finance the Certificate required by Sec. C8-40-4 of the Charter on or before January 15<sup>th</sup>. The new members on the Board of Finance never had an opportunity to even ask a question about the proposed capital projects. To my knowledge, the continuing Board of Finance members never attended any meeting regarding the proposed capital projects. It would be a dereliction of the Board of Finance's duties to issue the Certificate by first not complying with the Charter, and second by not reviewing in some detail the proposed capital projects.

For obvious reasons, I am requesting that a joint meeting with the Planning Board be scheduled before January 14, 2010. I am suggesting that the joint meeting be scheduled for two, three hour sessions from 6 PM to 9 PM on January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Finance and Planning Board members who believe they already understand the proposed capital projects do not have to attend the joint meeting.

As background, I have been trying to schedule this mandated joint meeting since early December 2009. Upon request I will provide a copy of the correspondence, including emails from Corporation Counsel, regarding Tim Abbazia's and my efforts to schedule this joint meeting. It appears that the Charter is more of an annoyance than a document to be complied with for some City officials.

Kathleen A. Murphy  
Member of the Board of Finance

cc: Devon Lash, Stamford Advocate