

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE JOINT WITH THE LEGISITON
COMMITTEE
JUNE 9, 2009**

**Community Services
Members**

In Attendance: Lois Bronz, Chair, Ken Jenkins, Vito Pinto, Judy Myers, and Bill Burton.

Legislation Members

In Attendance: Bill Burton, Chair, Marty Rogowsky, Judy Myers, Ken Jenkins, Peter Hareckham, John Nonna, Lois Bronz.

In Attendance: CE: Bill Randolph, Andrew Neuman Law: Linda Trentacosta, Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz CP: Gary Brown Health: Joshua Lipsman BOL: Chris Crane, Joanne Sold, Mary Jackson, Sally Swift, Travis Grodin, Christina Giliberti, Lily Brown, Katy Delgado and Melanie Montalto Guests: Pat Brodhagen, Bonny Betancourt

Items Discussed: Draft legislation for the ban of baby products containing bisphenol-A.

Minutes

Chairwoman Bronz called the Community Services Committee meeting to order at 10:45 A.M.

Chairman Burton called the Legislation Committee to Order at 10:45 A.M.

Moved by Legislator Jenkins and seconded by Legislator Burton the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings on April 26 and May 19, 2009 were approved with a vote of 5-0.

Linda Trentacosta and Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz of the Law Department explained the draft legislation that is currently before both Committees. It combines language from the Federal bill, the New York State bill, and the Suffolk County Law.

Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Commissioner of the Department of Health explained what bisphenol-A (BPA) is, and how it would be difficult to enforce, staff and fund this law. He stated that not every product states that it contains BPA, and there would be a cost to developing a testing program to enforce the law. He also stated that from a health point of view the evidence is not strong enough to say that BPA is a definite threat to humans.

Gary Brown, Director of the Department of Consumer Protection explained how this bill would be almost impossible to enforce given the current resources of the County. He stated that there is currently no requirement to list that BPA is contained in a product, so every product would have to be tested. He also stated that in the past four years we have passed and enacted seven new laws that are enforced by the Department of Consumer Protection in addition to the ones that they already enforce. The Department has managed to enforce all of these laws without additional staffing, but at this point adding an additional law that would require a testing program

County wide would not be possible without hiring new inspectors and other staff which will increase costs of the County.

Legislator Pinto asked how Connecticut and Minnesota are enforcing their law. Gary Brown stated that he is not sure how they are enforcing it, but he believes that the Connecticut law does not go into affect until 2011. He also said that the Suffolk County law states that the store cannot “knowingly” sell products with BPA, and they have no way of actually knowing if their products have BPA in them.

Legislator Rogowsky stated that he may be more inclined to provide the public information on this issue since a law would be so difficult to enforce. Legislator Pinto agreed and suggested that we issue a letter to manufacturers and stores.

Legislator Harckham stated that he appreciates the conversation and feels that this issue warrants something more than simply putting it on the County webpage. He said he would like to see a resolution passed to support the federal bill which is sponsored by Senator Schumer.

Andrew Neuman, Senior Assistant to the County Executive said that the County Executive would join in a letter of support of that bill.

The Committee agreed to draft a resolution that can either be used as a resolution or a letter by both Committees for a future meeting.

Moved by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Burton the Committee on Community Services adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Moved by Legislator Harckham and seconded by Legislator Burton the Committee on Legislation adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

A complete audio recording of the meeting is available for review upon request.