

COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 4:00 PM

Location

Board Room District Headquarters 555 Main Street, Hartford

Dial in #: (415)-655-0001 Access Code: 2300 855 1932#

Meeting Video Link

Commissioners

Anderson Healy

Avedisian Holloway

Bazzano (C) Magnan

Buell (VC) Tierinni

Currey (Ex-Officio) Torres

Gardow Woulfe

Quorum: 6

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS
- 3. INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE COMMENTS & QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS
- 4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2025
- 5. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: PROPOSED HOUSE BILL NO. 5840 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION & PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES"
- 6. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: PROPOSED HOUSE BILL NO. 6540 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF HARTFORD COUNTY"
- 7. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: 2025 BILL TRACKING REPORT
- 8. OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 9. COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
- 10. ADJOURNMENT



General Assembly

Corrected Copy

Proposed Bill No. 5840

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 3176

Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:

REP. SANCHEZ, 6th Dist.

REP. FARRAR K., 20th Dist.

REP. DELNICKI, 14th Dist.

SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION AND PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That section 12-18b of the general statutes be amended to expand the
- 2 grants in lieu of taxes payments by the state to include property owned
- 3 by the Metropolitan District Commission for reimbursement to the
- 4 municipalities in which such properties are located.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide payments in lieu of taxes to towns for MDC properties.

LCO No. 3176 1 of 1



General Assembly

Proposed Bill No. 6540

January Session, 2025



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:

REP. DELNICKI, 14th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF HARTFORD COUNTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to (1) require annual audits of
- 2 the Metropolitan District Commission by the Auditors of Public
- 3 Accounts, (2) establish a task force to examine the organization and
- 4 operation of the Metropolitan District Commission, (3) require the
- 5 board of commissioners of the Metropolitan District Commission to
- 6 adopt, administer and enforce a model code of ethics for municipalities
- 7 and special districts, and (4) permit commissioners from nonmember
- 8 municipalities to vote on water rates applicable to nonmember
- 9 municipalities.

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require annual audits of the Metropolitan District Commission by the Auditors of Public Accounts, (2) establish a task force to examine the organization and operation of the Metropolitan District Commission, (3) require the board of commissioners of the Metropolitan District Commission to adopt, administer and enforce a model code of ethics for municipalities and special districts, and (4) permit commissioners from

LCO No. 1120 1 of 2

nonmember municipalities to vote on water rates applicable to nonmember municipalities.

LCO No. 1120 **2** of 2

Bill	Title	History	Committee(s)
* HB 5840	An Act Concerning The Metropolitan District Commission And Payments In Lieu Of Taxes. To provide payments in lieu of taxes to towns for MDC properties.	Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations (1/22)	Appropriations
* HB 6540	An Act Concerning The Metropolitan District Of Hartford County. To (1) require annual audits of the Metropolitan District Commission by the Auditors of Public Accounts, (2) establish a task force to examine the organization and operation of the Metropolitan District Commission, (3) require the board of commissioners of the Metropolitan District Commission to adopt, administer and enforce a model code of ethics for municipalities and special districts, and (4) permit commissioners from nonmember municipalities to vote on water rates applicable to nonmember municipalities.	Referred to Joint Committee on Planning and Development (1/24)	Planning and Development
* SB 474	An Act Revising The Amount Of Fluoride To Be Added To The Water Supply By Water Companies. To enhance public health outcomes and promote dental health by ensuring consistent levels of fluoride in the drinking water of larger communities.	Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health (1/10)	Public Health
<u>HB 5004</u>	An Act Concerning The Protection Of The Environment And The Development Of Renewable Energy Sources And Associated Job Sectors. To protect the state's environment while providing for the development of renewable energy sources and related job sectors in a manner that reduces costs connected with such protections and development.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/8)	Environment

<u>HB 5076</u>	An Act Concerning Energy And Water Efficiency Requirements For Artificial Intelligence Data Centers. To promote energy and water consumption efficiency in artificial intelligence data centers.	Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology (1/10)	Energy and Technology
<u>HB 5101</u>	An Act Establishing A Triple Bottom Line Justice Task Force. To establish a task force to examine methods to address the interconnected challenges of health disparities, environmental injustices and economic disparities.	Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health (1/10)	Public Health
<u>HB 5107</u>	An Act Establishing A Moratorium On Permits To Burn Medical Waste. To mitigate risks associated with medical waste burning and protect the health and safety of residents in the state.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/13)	Environment
<u>HB 5318</u>	An Act Concerning The Discharge Of Contaminated Water Into The Connecticut River By Massachusetts-based Entities. To stop the state of Massachusetts from allowing the discharge of pollutants into the Connecticut River.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/16)	Environment
<u>HB 5389</u>	An Act Concerning Notification Of Sewage Discharges Into The Connecticut River That Occur In The State Of Massachusetts. To provide notice of sewage discharges into the Connecticut River that occur in the state of Massachusetts.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/17)	Environment

HB 5421	An Act Requiring Minority Representation On Certain Municipal Legislative Bodies And Boards Of Education.	Referred to Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections (1/17)	Government Administration and Elections
	To require minority representation among members elected at large on municipal legislative bodies and boards of education.		
HB 5524	An Act Concerning A Sewage Right-to-know Act.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/21)	Environment
	To warn residents, including those who fish and swim, of sewage spills occurring along rivers and streams.		
HB 5535	An Act Concerning Compliance With Environmental And Water Quality Regulations.	Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology (1/21)	Energy and Technology
	To (1) encourage investments in water infrastructure projects that are required for state and federal regulatory compliance, and (2) authorize a surcharge for certain water infrastructure projects that provide environmental and public health benefits, including, but not limited to, addressing PFAS contamination.		
HB 5676	An Act Concerning A Report On The State's Potential Management Of The Colebrook River Lake.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/21)	Environment
	To redesignate the water levels for the state's potential management of the Colebrook River Lake.		

HB 5723	An Act Requiring Certain Mobile Manufactured Home Park Owners To Submit Quarterly Reports Concerning Fire Hydrant Capacity. To require certain mobile manufactured home park owners to submit quarterly reports to the Department of Consumer Protection disclosing the progress such owners have made in increasing the water capacity and flow of fire hydrants located on such owners' mobile manufactured home parks.	Referred to Joint Committee on General Law (1/21)	General Law
<u>HB 5750</u>	An Act Requiring A Study Of A State-wide Nonprofit Utility Company. To require a study concerning the establishment of a state-wide nonprofit entity to replace privately owned or investor-owned utility companies.	Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology (1/21)	Energy and Technology
HB 5941	An Act Requiring Notice Of Excavation By A Public Utility To Affected Property Owners. To require a public utility to provide notice to affected property owners prior to engaging in excavation.	Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology (1/22)	Energy and Technology
HB 5951	An Act Concerning Regional Water Authorities Established By Municipalities. To allow a municipality to establish a regional water authority.	Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology (1/22)	Energy and Technology
HB 6221	An Act Concerning Workforce Development For Sewage Treatment Facilities. To create a workforce for sewage treatment facilities.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/23)	Environment

HB 6223	An Act Concerning Source Water Protection.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/23)	Environment
	To protect water sources and water quality in the state.		
HB 6224	An Act Concerning Water Supplies And The Water Treatment Operator Workforce. To improve water supplies and add qualified and certified water treatment operators to address workforce shortages.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/23)	Environment
<u>HB 6777</u>	An Act Concerning Water Utility Systems And Water Quality And Treatment Surcharges. To allow water companies to charge a water quality and treatment surcharge to recover costs for capital projects required to comply with state and federal water regulations.	ET Public Hearing: Tue 2/4 10:30 AM @ ROOM 1D AND ZOOM AND YOUTUBE LIVE (1/31) Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology (1/29)	Energy and Technology
HB 6802	An Act Concerning Test Bed Technologies. To establish a test bed technologies advisory board and require that each state agency create and administer a pilot program concerning the use of technologies, products or processes that promote operational cost reduction within such agency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology (1/29)	Energy and Technology
HB 6848	An Act Concerning The Adoption Of Municipal Conflict Of Interest Provisions. To require municipalities that do not have an adopted conflict of interest provision to adopt such a provision and all municipalities to submit a copy of such provision to the Office of State Ethics and post such provision on their Internet web site.	GAE Public Hearing: Fri 2/7 12:00 PM @ ROOM 2B AND VIA ZOOM AND YOUTUBE LIVE (2/3) Referred to Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections (1/31)	Government Administration and Elections

<u>HJ 7</u>	Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution Regarding Environmental Rights.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/17)	Environment
	To amend the Constitution of the state concerning environmental rights.		
HJ 14	Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution Concerning An Individual Right To Clean And Healthy Air, Water, Soil, Ecosystems And Environment And A Safe And Stable Climate.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/22)	Environment
	To propose an amendment to the State Constitution to provide each person with an individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems and environment and a safe and stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and the general welfare.		
SB 2	An Act Concerning Artificial Intelligence. To protect consumers in this state from the risks of algorithmic discrimination and unfair treatment posed by artificial intelligence.	Vote to Draft (1/22) Referred to Joint Committee on General Law (1/8)	General Law
<u>SB 3</u>	An Act Concerning Consumer Protection And Safety. To protect the privacy, safety and financial security of Connecticut residents and to protect infrastructure in the state.	Vote to Draft (1/22) Referred to Joint Committee on General Law (1/8)	General Law
<u>SB 9</u>	An Act Concerning The Environment, Climate And Sustainable Municipal And State Planning. To provide municipalities certain authorities concerning climate resiliency efforts.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/8)	Environment

SB 48	An Act Safeguarding Connecticut's Natural Resources And Environment. To ensure a healthier and more resilient ecosystem for future generations and foster conservation and environmental stewardship for a thriving and sustainable Connecticut.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/8)	Environment
SB 60	An Act Requiring The Testing For Pfas Whenever A Waste-to-energy Plant Applies For Expansion. To test for PFAS when a waste-to-energy facility seeks to expand its facility.		Environment
<u>SB 65</u>	An Act Requiring Reporting On Closed Wells And Landfills And Establishing A Protocol For Testing Such Structures For Pfas. To create a record of closed landfills and wells and establish a protocol for PFAS testing of wells, landfills and incinerator ash.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/8)	Environment
SB 80	An Act Concerning The Burning Of Medical Waste. To prohibit the burning of medical waste by facilities that do not meet EPA standards for the burning of such waste.	ENV Public Hearing: Fri 1/31 10:00 AM @ ROOM 2C AND ZOOM AND YOUTUBE LIVE (1/27) Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/24) Drafted by Committee (1/23) Vote to Draft (1/17) Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/8)	Environment

SB 276	An Act Concerning Grants For Removal Of Pfas From Fire Apparatus. To establish that certain funds shall not lapse on June 30, 2025, and shall be available to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to provide grants to municipalities, independent fire companies and state agencies to remove PFAS from fire apparatus or provide reimbursement for removal of PFAS from fire apparatus that occurred prior to July 1, 2023.	Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security (1/8)	Public Safety and Security
SB 314	An Act Concerning Civil Preparedness For Climate Change Trends, The Use Of Town Aid Road Program Funds For Climate Resiliency And Revisions To The State Water Plan. To better enable towns to undertake climate change-related resiliency efforts.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/9)	Environment
SB 418	An Act Establishing A Task Force To Assess And Implement Infrastructure Resiliency To Climate Change In The Greater Hartford Area Surrounding The Connecticut River. To address infrastructure issues in the Greater Hartford area surrounding the Connecticut River to account for climate change resiliency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/10)	Environment
<u>SB 525</u>	An Act Concerning The Selection Of Contractors For Public Works Projects. To generate job growth and economic development by requiring the state and its agents to give preference to in-state manufacturers, fabricators and erectors.	Referred to Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees (1/13)	Labor and Public Employees

SB 626	An Act Concerning Municipalities And The Paid Sick Leave Statutes. To exempt municipalities from the provisions of the paid sick leave statutes.	Referred to Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees (1/15)	Labor and Public Employees
SB 663	An Act Repealing Provisions Concerning Remote Public Agency Meetings. To reverse the policy enacted in sections 147 and 149 of public act 21-2 of the June special session that allows for remote meetings to replace in-person meetings in certain government settings.	Referred to Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections (1/16)	Government Administration and Elections
SB 696	An Act Establishing A Municipal Grant Program To Facilitate The Expansion Of Certain Single-family Housing And Middle Housing. To establish a grant program to assist municipalities in covering costs related to public infrastructure, in order to facilitate the expansion of deed-restricted single-family housing and middle housing.	Referred to Joint Committee on Planning and Development (1/16)	Planning and Development
<u>SB 697</u>	An Act Authorizing Municipalities To Publish Legal Notices Online. To permit municipalities to publish legal notices on municipal Internet web sites.	Referred to Joint Committee on Planning and Development (1/16)	Planning and Development
SB 732	An Act Requiring The State Water Plan To Be Amended To Address Climate Change. To require the state water plan to be amended to account for climate change.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/17)	Environment
SB 733	An Act Establishing Pfas-related Public Water Supply Testing Standards And Requirements. To create a maximum contaminant level for PFAS in public drinking water supplies.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/17)	Environment

SB 808	An Act Concerning Utility Charges For	Referred to Joint Committee on Housing (1/21)	Housing
	Residential Dwelling Units.		
	To require that a tenant only be charged for utilities if such tenant's dwelling unit has an		
	individual meter.		
SB 834	An Act Concerning Foreclosure, Assignment And Other Enforcement Actions For Unpaid	Referred to Joint Committee on Planning and Development (1/21)	Planning and Development
	Sewer Assessments And Other Fees And Charges.		·
	To prohibit foreclosure, assignment and other enforcement actions for unpaid sewer		
	assessments and other fees and charges in the case of owner-occupied real property for which		
	the principal of such unpaid assessments, fees and charges is less than four thousand dollars		
	unless five years have elapsed from the date any lien was filed and such lien remains unpaid.		
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SB 883	An Act Concerning The Adoption Of Maine's Pfas-related Legislation And Regulations And	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/22)	Environment
	Providing Guidelines For The Use Of Sewage Sludge In Farming.		
	To protect the public health from PFAS and the use of sewage sludge in farming.		
SB 888	An Act Concerning Public Participation Reporting Requirements Under The Environmental Justice Statute.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/22)	Environment
	To adjust certain timeframes under the environmental justice statutes to allow more time for public participation.		
CD 000		Defermed to Joint Committee on Engineering (4/92)	Farring margint
SB 889	An Act Repealing Certain Exceptions To The Provisions Of The Environmental Justice Act.	Referred to Joint Committee on Environment (1/22)	Environment
	To enable the environmental justice statute provisions to be operative in communities of all		
	sizes.		

SB 891	An Act Requiring Public Utility Companies To	Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology (1/22)	Energy and Technology
<u>3B 031</u>	Repair Alterations Of Public Roadways Caused	Telefred to 30iiit Committee on Energy and Technology (1/22)	Lifelgy and reciniology
	By Such Companies.		
	To require that any public utility company that causes the excavation of, or other alteration to,		
	a public roadway maintained by any		
	municipality, be required to repave or repair		
	such roadway to the satisfaction of such		
	municipality.		
SB 1117	An Act Concerning Referenda On Revisions To	Referred to Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections	Government
<u> </u>	Municipal Charters And Home Rule Ordinances.		Administration and
			Elections
	To establish certain minimum requirements for		
	presenting charter or home rule ordinance amendment ballot questions to voters.		
	amendment ballot questions to voters.		
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<u>SB 1187</u>	An Act Concerning Foreclosure, Assignment And Other Enforcement Actions For Unpaid	PD Public Hearing: Mon 2/3 10:30 AM @ ROOM 2B AND ZOOM AND YOUTUBE LIVE (1/30)	Planning and Development
	Sewer Assessments And Other Fees And	Referred to Joint Committee on Planning and Development (1/29)	Development
	Charges.	3 1 (* *)	
	T		
	To prohibit foreclosure, assignment and other enforcement actions for unpaid sewer		
	assessments and other fees and charges in the		
	case of owner-occupied real property for which		
	the principal of such unpaid assessments, fees		
	and charges is less than three thousand dollars		
	unless three years have elapsed from the date any lien was filed and such lien remains unpaid.		
	any hen was med and such hen remains unpaid.		

COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT SPECIAL MEETING

555 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut 06103 Monday, January 6, 2025

Present: Commissioners John Avedisian, John Bazzano, James Healy, Calixto

Torres and District Chairman Donald Currey (5)

Remote

Attendance: Commissioner Kyle Anderson, Peter Gardow and Maureen Magnan (3)

Absent: Commissioner Clifford Avery Buell, Jean Holloway and James Woulfe (3)

Also

Present: Commissioner William DiBella

Commissioner Dominic Pane

Commissioner Bhupen Patel (Remote Attendance)

Commissioner Alvin Taylor

Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer

Christopher Stone, District Counsel

John S. Mirtle, District Clerk

Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel Steve Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer

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Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer (Remote Attendance)

Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems

David Rutty, Director of Operations

Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Services

Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities (Remote Attendance)

Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant (Remote Attendance)

Matthew McAuliffe, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

Amanda Litvak, IT Professional Level Associate (Remote Attendance)

Janice Flemming-Butler, Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC

Mike Crist, Levin, Paolino & Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Bazzano called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Torres made a correction to the December 4, 2024 minutes to reflect that he was present at the meeting.

On motion made by Commissioner Torres and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of December 4, 2024 were approved.

COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS

To: Committee on MDC Government

January 6, 2025

Over the past year, the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. (Attorney Brendan Fox), Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC (Janice Flemming) and Levin, Paolino & Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC have provided exemplary service in the area of government relations and advocacy within state government on behalf of the District, and the same holds true for Squire Patton Boggs (William Schuster) and SJB Strategies, LLC (Steve Bonafonte) on the federal level. District staff recommends the reappointment of the above existing firms for the 2025 state and federal legislative consultants. The term of the appointments would be from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, but as to Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, for a six month term, all subject to Board approval.

Furthermore, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for state legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. receive \$69,000.00, (2) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive \$66,000.00 and (3). Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC receive \$21,000.00

On the Federal level, District staff recommends the reappointment of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies LLC as federal legislative consultants. In the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for federal legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Squire Patton Boggs receive \$150,000.00; and (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$95,000.00.

It is therefore recommended that it be:

Voted: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board

passage of the following resolution:

Resolved: That the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. and Strategic

Outreach Solutions, LLC shall be retained to perform state lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2025 through December

31, 2025, and the firm of Levin, Paolino, and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, shall be retained for a six month term. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$69,000.00, Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$66,000.00, and Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC will receive \$21,000.00, all subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel, may specify.

Further Resolved:

That the firms of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies, LLC be retained to perform federal lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2025 and terminating on December 31, 2025. Squire Patton Boggs will receive \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$95,000.00, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel may specify.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Mirtle District Clerk

On motion made by Commissioner Bazzano and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

2025 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Christopher Stone led a discussion regarding 2025 legislative initiatives

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No requests were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3	:46 PM
ATTEST:	
John S. Mirtle, Esq. District Clerk	 Date of Approval