

**AD HOC REPORT
Keep Danbury Beautiful**

31

Hon. Mark D. Boughton, Mayor
Common Council Members

March 7, 2007

Chairwoman Colleen Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Committee members are Mrs. Basso and Mr. Visconti. Also in attendance are Mayor Boughton, petitioner; Deputy Corporation Counsel Les Pinter; Dir. Public Works Antonio Iadarola; Rich Antous, UNIT; Council members Seabury, Cutsumpas and Riley; and a member of the public.

The charge of the meeting is to Keep Danbury Beautiful. Mayor Boughton explained why he requested this ad hoc. The City needs a way to regulate litter on private property – to empower all members of the UNIT to write citations using a fee schedule and fines. The second part of this is about the honor boxes you see on City sidewalks – those boxes with the free magazines and newspapers – some are grouped together and chained to poles. Some block the sidewalk. The owners of the boxes will have to apply for a permit from the Public Works department to place them on city sidewalks.

Attorney Pinter reviewed the littering ordinance. He explained the 2 main things – State law allows a greater penalty for littering on public / private property and the Clean Community provision of the new ordinance, which says the commercial owner must maintain his property in a clean condition. It covers all angles of litter in compliance with state law. It will provide an extra tool for the UNIT to use to help with litter.

Mrs. Basso asked if the fine schedule could be discretionary. The \$2,500 seems high for a 1st offense. Mayor Boughton remarked that fines are discretionary and there is an appeals process.

Mr. Visconti asked about the Red Cross boxes that seem to be appearing everywhere. Also, do the members of UNIT have authority to write the citations? Mr. Pinter said the Clean Community provision in the littering ordinance would apply to Red Cross boxes. Mayor Boughton said he is negotiating with the police union who are in favor of extra help on this issue.

Mr. Antous said his department needs more help with cleaning up the City and not just on Clean City day. Ms. Stanley asked if it was possible for a City truck to pick up at some of the elderly residents' homes who cannot get out. The Mayor and Mr. Iadarola will look into this.

Mr. Visconti asked what line item will the funds from the fees collected go into – General Fund according to the Mayor. Depending on how much money is collected, perhaps we could fund more enforcement and education programs.

Mrs. Basso moved that at the next Council meeting, the Council adopt the Ordinances and refer them to a public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Visconti. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Visconti moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Basso. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Stanley, Chairwoman

Pauline Basso

Fred Visconti