

1-03-2025

Legal Opinion Stephanie Cummings 402(F)

We have reviewed Mr. Zulpa's proposal with respect to requiring the Town Council to create a strategic plan. We agree that if the CRC is inclined to make this change, it should live in Section 702(B), but also possibly be referenced in Section 402(F).

Below is a highlight of how other Connecticut communities have handled their strategic plans.

Southbury

- Southbury's Charter states that the duties of the First Selectman include responsibility for "preparing and annually updating a strategic plan for the Town, such plan [is] subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen."
- Southbury also established, via its Charter, a 7 member and 3 alternate appointed advisory board with a purpose of "advising the Board of Selectmen, and such other commissions, departments, and offices as the Board of Selectmen may require, as to the implementation of the Strategic Plan."

Madison

- Madison's Charter states that the duties of the Board of Selectmen include responsibility "for strategic planning, review and oversight of current and projected administrative, governmental, and fiscal requirements of the Town, including the preparation and publication of a yearly State of the Town Report."

Newtown

- Newtown's Charter requires an Economic Development Commission be established for the purposes of promotion and development of the economic resources of the Town of Newtown. The powers and duties of this Commission include preparation of "a Strategic Plan of Economic Development for the Town of Newtown..." and requires that the Strategic Plan be updated at least every 5 years.

Other towns, such as Wethersfield, have a comprehensive strategic plan process but no reference in their charter. Hartford also maintains a strategic plan, but does not reference the plan in its charter. Hartford's charter does require that the Mayor's budget message include "an account of the proposed goals, objectives, and policy priorities set forth in the proposed budget as well as a statement of how the proposal complies with and advances the objectives of the plan of conservation and development required by the Connecticut General Statutes."