Hartford

New England's Rising Star℠

WINTER 2006

Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

The Mayor's UPDATE

2006 is the year Hartford means business. We need to build on the progress made in 2005 to formulate Hartford's future – especially when it comes to your safety.

Hartford is the third most improved city in the nation for fighting crime. Overall violent crime is down 12-percent from 2004 with 1559 fewer crimes. This is the direct result of our Neighborhood Policing Plan. There are more officers walking the beat and more accountability put on the brave men and women who serve and protect us 24/7.

Yet, more work must be done, especially in the areas of tracking illegal firearms and reporting lost and stolen guns. Hartford is not alone when it comes to the issue of violence. Several mayors and I have made it clear that the State has fallen short in its commitment to the safety of our citizens.

I recently commissioned a study that shows the State spends $102 million on the City's youth ages 9 to 24. The problem is, the State has it backward. Instead of investing in prevention, money is spent on "after the fact" treatment.

HERE'S WHAT I PLEDGE TO DO:

1. Re-organize and coordinate the Hartford Youth Service Bureau to link education, health, personal development and self-sufficiency.
2. Engage state agencies to shift funds from intervention services to prevention services.
3. Involve the private sector to help fund youth programs.
4. Develop job training services for young adults.

Making our cities safer requires a long-term strategy. This isn't about more money it is about targeting funds efficiently. Government has its role, but ***it takes all of us*** to achieve safe neighborhoods. Parents, clergy, educators, and business leaders must share the responsibility of achieving a vibrant city.

Sincerely,

Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

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Homeownership
ON THE RISE IN HARTFORD!

Mayor Perez says Hartford is digging in and building up! *Mayor Perez is at the groundbreaking ceremony for* ***Dutch Point Colony*** *in Hartford's Sheldon-Charter Oak neighborhood. $7 million is being invested over 5 years for this 148-unit rental and 50 owner occupied construction project. Also pictured from l-r are* ***Willie Jones, Bernadine Silvers, Julie Fagan, State Senator John Fonfara,*** *and* ***Angel Arce.***

There are more than 1100 new homeowners in Hartford since 2002, and in 2006 Mayor Perez is ready to welcome hundreds more! 36 housing construction projects in the city are completed, under construction or proposed. You can see them in every neighborhood for people of every income level.

There are high-rise buildings changing the skyline of the Capital City, but there are also Habitat for Humanity homes, senior housing, and a new definition of public housing. New homes are sprouting up on Garden Street, Benton Street, Pearl Street, Capitol Avenue, Wethersfield Avenue, and Farmington Avenue. Hartford is a city experiencing a housing boom. It is still the most affordable town to purchase a home and the increase in home values continues to outpace the region. That's because the City values its residents and grows its home base of homeownership as well as welcomes folks from other cities, suburbs, and states.

Mayor Perez believes homeownership is a source of pride in our communities!

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS:

Property owners, tenants, or occupants:

- Remove ice from sidewalks within one hour of storm
- In case of snow only, clear walkways and handicap ramps within two hours of a daytime storm or within three hours after sunrise of an overnight storm
- Clear snow away from fire hydrants
- Don't throw snow back into the street
- Residents without driveways may use school parking lots during parking bans

Mayor Perez Leads

THE WAY ON EDUCATION

Mayor Perez is serving as Chairman of the Board of Education to help bring a renewed sense of urgency to raising the standards of excellence for Hartford Public School students. "I have spent more time on education than any previous Mayor and I will continue my strong commitment to early childhood development, school construction and renovation, and increasing the number of Hartford students who graduate from college," says Mayor Perez.

Already two task forces have been set up to review discipline and security issues and accelerate the push for higher education. "Education is the great equalizer in our society," says Mayor Perez, ***"Our kids come first!"***

MAYOR PEREZ CELEBRATES HISTORY!
CITY HALL TURNS 90!

Photo: Andy Hart

It was a party 90 years in the making! *Hartford leaders past and present were on hand for the* ***90th year celebration of the City's Municipal Building.*** ***Mayor Perez*** *is with former Mayors* ***Mike Peters, James Kinsella, Ann Uccello, Thirman Milner*** *and* ***George Kinsella.*** *Standing are Council members* ***Jim Boucher, Hernan LaFontaine, City Treasurer Kathleen Palm-Devine,*** *and Council members* ***Veronica Airey-Wilson, John Bazzano,*** *and* ***rJo Winch.***

RISING STAR:

Mayor Perez is thrilled to see that old industrial buildings in Hartford's Parkville neighborhood are finding new life and becoming part of a thriving business community! Once the home to rubber, telephone, and typewriter factories, this vibrant area is now a growing business and arts Mecca – from bakeries to banks, to kitchen showrooms and arts showcases.

Some new friends and neighbors on Park Street include: The Wedding Factory, Colby & Martin, New Alliance Bank, and DesignSource CT LLC.

Parkville Neighborhood is Diverse and Business Friendly!

With each new business, brings new jobs and economic activity to the area.

"Affordable prices and creative spaces are attracting all kinds of businesses. We must continue to reinvest in the area's unique architecture to pave the way for an even more exciting future," says Mayor Perez.

The neighborhood is a microcosm of the melting pot called Hartford. If you look at all the flags at Parkville Elementary School at the corner of Park Street and New Park Avenue, you sense the flavor and diversity of our people and our businesses. ***This is our Hartford!***

CONCERNED ABOUT A POTENTIAL PROPERTY TAX HIKE? CALL YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR!

Without a change in State law, Hartford homeowners could see tax increases in the next year of 46-126%! Let your legislators know you support a change in State law to help Hartford homeowners!

Senator John Fonfara (860) 240-0043
Rep. Evelyn Mantilla (860) 240-8585
Rep. Minnie Gonzalez (860) 240-8585
Rep. Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey (860) 240-8500
Sen. Eric Coleman (860) 240-5302
Rep. Douglas McCrory (860) 240-8585
Rep. Art Feltman (860) 240 8585
Rep. Kenneth Green (860) 240-8585

Mayor Perez Fights to Keep Insurance and Financial Jobs in Hartford!

Mayor Eddie Perez convened an economic summit with CEO's and Senior Executives from major Hartford based insurance and financial institutions. They discussed ways to ramp up their joint efforts to retain and grow industry jobs in the Capital City.

The group addressed a number of important issues including how to streamline the regulatory process for new insurance projects and how the City and State could play a much more aggressive role in attracting new jobs.

The group agreed there needs to be a "renewed sense of urgency" in the wake of thousands of jobs being eliminated from or transferred out of the City in the past several months. Right now, 137,000 Connecticut residents are employed in the insurance and financial services industry.

Mayor Perez says, "I'm fighting for these high-paying jobs to stay in Hartford. If this industry doesn't stay strong, the economic ripple effect on the State will be worse than if the Groton Sub Base had closed." Two weeks later, State Senator Pro Tem Donald Williams and State House Speaker James Amman joined forces with Mayor Perez and industry leaders to strategize how to nurture this key sector of Connecticut's economy. ***Keep fighting, Mayor Perez!***

Hartford Gets $1.7 Million for New Public Safety Complex Mayor Perez Calls This a "Great Down Payment!" Mayor Eddie Perez *stands with* ***Police Chief Patrick Harnett*** *at the announcement of $1.7 million in federal grant money to assist the City's efforts to build a new Public Safety Complex on High Street. These funds will be used to set up the Regional Command Center that will serve as a communications hub in case a major safety or weather threat hits the Capital City. Also on hand from r-l,* ***Fire Chief Charles Teale, Councilwoman rJo Winch, State Sen. John Fonfara, Congressman John Larson,*** *and* ***U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman.***

Hartford Families Embrace Mayor Perez's

Independent School Fair

More than 100 Hartford families took part in Mayor Perez's Private School Fair at the Artists Collective.

19 Independent Schools are part of the initiative to increase the number of Hartford students graduating from college. This is a win-win situation for both the schools and families. Everyone involved is exposed to diversity and real world issues such as different races, economic backgrounds and different cultures and more importantly how to find the solutions to overcome these challenges. Plus 99% of the students who attend private school go on to graduate from college.

Mayor Perez says, "This provides Hartford families with an extra educational option!"

For more information on the Hartford Youth Scholars Foundation, Inc., please contact Heather Lambert in the Mayor's Office at (860) 543-8500.

Mayor Perez Working With Us For STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS!