

Court of Common Council

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CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

Shawn T. Wooden, Council President
Alexander Aponte, Majority Leader
Larry Deutsch, Minority Leader

John V. Bazzano, Town and City Clerk

Kyle K. Anderson, Councilman
Joel Cruz, Jr., Councilman
Raúl De Jesús, Jr., Councilman
Cynthia R. Jennings, Councilwoman
Kenneth H. Kennedy, Jr., Councilman
David MacDonald, Councilman

June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, The Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) is a tax credit program administered by the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) and overseen by municipalities on a yearly basis and Grants Administration has been the assigned municipal liaison for this program since 1995, and

Whereas, Chapter 228a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S., 12-631 - 12-638) provides a tax credit for businesses which sponsor approved community programs such as energy conservation, employment, training, childcare, crime prevention, and construction/rehabilitation of dwelling units for low/moderate-income families, and

Whereas, Eighty (80) NAA proposals were received by the April 25, 2013 response date and all but one met the basic criteria of the NAA program, and

Whereas, DRS requires the governing body of each municipality to approve the proposed list of NAA eligible community programs and to authorize its submission to DRS, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Mayor is hereby authorized to submit the list of programs eligible under the 2013 Neighborhood Assistance Act and the program proposals to the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services by the deadline of July 1, 2013; and be it further

Resolved, That the list submitted to the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services shall include all eligible programs named in the attached table and shall be in the format prescribed by Public Act 89-328; and be it further

Resolved, That the Court of Common Council designates the Mayor as the City's authorized representative and further authorizes him to take all steps necessary to implement the NAA program, and be it further

Resolved, That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute any and all manner of other documents and to take such other actions as he and the Corporation Counsel may deem appropriate and in the best interests of the City in order to effectuate the above transaction; and be it further

Resolved, That no person or entity shall be entitled to rely on, or otherwise claim any benefit by reason of this resolution should the Mayor fail to execute any agreements or other documents, or to take any other actions; and be it further

Resolved, That all approvals and authorizations provided hereby are contingent upon, and only shall be effective on and by means of, the Mayor executing such agreements and documents, and taking such actions, all of which shall be, in form and substance, acceptable to the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel.

Attest:


Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

Court of Common Council

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, The City of Hartford must complete and submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) its Year Four Annual Action Plan (FY 2013-14) in order to receive entitlement funds under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs, and

Whereas, The Year Four Annual Action Plan outlines the City's intended use of approximately \$6.5 million for activities and programs that support specific priority needs and objectives identified in the City of Hartford's Five Year Consolidated Community Development Plan (2010-2015), and

Whereas, The Year Four Annual Action Plan was developed according to HUD's approved Citizen Participation Plan, which includes two public hearings, several community meetings and a 30-day comment period that solicited citizen feedback on the needs of community in areas such as Housing, Economic Development and Public Service, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Court of Common Council authorizes the Mayor to submit the Year Four Annual Action Plan to HUD for approval and release of funds, and be it further

Resolved, That the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all manner of other documents and to take such other actions as he and the Corporation Counsel may deem appropriate and in the best interests of the City in order to receive, contract and expend the above referenced grant funds, and be it further

Resolved, That no person or entity shall be entitled to rely on, or otherwise claim any benefit by reason of this resolution should the Mayor fail to execute the aforementioned agreement or other documents, or to take any of the aforesaid actions, and be it further

Resolved, That should final HUD entitlement amounts for ESG and HOPWA differ from the estimated amounts, the Mayor shall be authorized to make immediate adjustments to subrecipient grant awards based on a percentage basis, provided the change is not substantial as defined in the City's Adopted Citizen Participation Plan, and be it further

Resolved, That should final HUD entitlement amounts for CDBG differ from the estimated amounts, the Mayor shall be authorized to adjust the award recommended for the Housing Preservation Loan Fund, provided the change is not substantial as defined in the City's Adopted Citizen Participation Plan, and be it further

Resolved, That all approvals and authorizations provided hereby are contingent upon, and only shall be effective on and by means of, the Mayor executing such agreements and documents, reallocating unexpended funds between existing line items within a 25% variance according to the City's evolving priority needs and objectives, and taking such actions, all of which shall be, in form and substance, acceptable to the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel.

Attest:



**Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.**

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, As part of the reconstruction of the Main Branch of the Hartford Public Library, it was necessary to make repairs and construct improvements along the Whitehead Highway beneath Main Street, the Library building, and the Library parking area, and

Whereas, The work remaining to be completed includes lighting, ceiling demolition, and new construction and structural and fireproofing repairs to the Library, and

Whereas, The cost to complete this work has been determined to be approximately \$1.0 million, and

Whereas, In addition to funding remaining in the existing construction accounts, a balance of \$834,624.18 remains from the allocation for construction of the new Albany Avenue Branch Library which has been completed, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Mayor is authorized to transfer \$834,624.18 from account W9276 to account W2620 for the purpose of completing the construction work described above.

Attest:


Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, Pension and healthcare benefits are increasingly among the greatest drivers of the City of Hartford's fiscal challenges; and

Whereas, For the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year, healthcare benefits are projected to cost the City over \$44 Million; and

Whereas, Current City pension obligations present the possibility of exhausting a significant portion of the City's fund balance (also referred to as the "rainy day fund"); and

Whereas, It is critically important to the long-term financial stability of the City for the City to address our structural deficits projected for future years; and

Whereas, Prior panels have been convened, most recently the Fiscal Analysis Task Force in 2010, and made recommendations as to potential courses of action to reduce the City's financial obligations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Court of Common Council hereby empanel a Healthcare & Pension Benefits Task Force ("Task Force") to study the City of Hartford's healthcare and pension benefits structure and recommend changes that balance the City's fiscal demands with the need to treat City of Hartford employees fairly and equitably; and be it further

Resolved, That members of the Task Force shall be jointly appointed by the Mayor and the Council President; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force should include at least one representative of organized labor, at least one representative with bona fide expertise in the pension field, and at least one representative with bona fide expertise in the field of health care among the appointees made by the Mayor and Council President; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force shall submit its recommendations to the Mayor and Court of Common Council by September 30, 2013; and be it further

Resolved, That the report of the Task Force shall include an analysis and a recommended course of action or options for modifying the structure of healthcare and pension benefits, detailing existing legal and contractual obligations, and the changes necessary to implement any proposed recommendations or options; and be it further

Resolved, That the City provide the Task Force with staff support and other resources, as reasonably determined by the Mayor and Council President, in order for the Task Force to carry out its mandate within the prescribed time frame.

Attest:


Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

Court of Common Council

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, The adopted budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 includes projected revenues arising from the assignment of delinquent real property tax liens in the amount of Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000), and

Whereas, By resolution dated February 13, 2013, the Court of Common Council created a Tax Lien Task Force for the purposes set forth in the resolution, and

Whereas, The Tax Lien Task Force's report dated March 31, 2013 includes a review of the past practices of assigning such tax liens and recommends certain changes and improvements, including the provision of additional notice and explanation to taxpayers prior to the assignment of liens, and

Whereas, The City, through the Finance Department, has issued a Request for Proposals for the assignment of delinquent real property tax liens in an amount not to exceed the budgeted amount for fiscal year 2012-2013 lien sales and has incorporated certain recommendations made by the Tax Lien Task Force, and

Whereas, The selection criteria utilized in awarding a new contract for lien assignments shall include a fair and reasonable price, demonstrated experience in servicing delinquent tax liens in larger portfolios, a servicing platform designed for tax lien collection, a collection philosophy of working with delinquent taxpayers by extending payment plans and forbearances, and the expertise of the vendor's management in Connecticut tax collection law and compliance, and

Whereas, Approval of the assignment, the execution of an agreement, and the closing of the assignment transaction must be completed before the end of this fiscal year, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the assignment of delinquent real estate tax liens, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$7,000,000, as set forth in the budget for fiscal year 2012-2013, is authorized, and be it further

Resolved, That the material terms of the assignment agreement shall include:

- 1) A requirement that the taxpayer be sent three notices prior to the commencement of any foreclosure action,
- 2) A restriction on the further assignment of any tax lien without the City's prior consent,
- 3) A prohibition on the commencement of any foreclosure proceedings within twelve months of the assignment,
- 4) An absolute right in favor of the City to buy-back any tax liens prior to the commencement of any foreclosure proceedings, and be it further

Resolved, That the Tax Collector shall use reasonable efforts to remove liens attributable to owner-occupied residential properties, and be it further

Resolved, That the Mayor, or his designee, is authorized to execute a delinquent tax lien assignment agreement with the successful bidder (assignee) for the purpose set forth above, upon and subject to such other terms and conditions that the Mayor, the Tax Collector and Corporation Counsel shall deem appropriate and in the best interests of the City, and be it further

Resolved, That no person or entity shall be entitled to rely on, or otherwise claim any benefit by reason of this resolution should the Mayor, or his designee fail to execute the aforementioned assignment agreement or other documents, or to take any of the other aforesaid actions, and be it further

Resolved, That all approvals and authorizations provided hereby are contingent upon, and only shall be effective on and by means of the Mayor, or his designee, executing such assignment agreement and documents, and taking such actions, all of which shall be, in form and substance, acceptable to the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel.

Attest:


Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, The City of Hartford's current property tax structure, which includes large numbers of tax exempt properties and a differential assessment structure lessens the city's competitiveness in attracting businesses, and

Whereas, Efforts over the past several years by the Mayor, Court of Common Council, Hartford's State Legislative Delegation, businesses, residents, and other stakeholders to reduce the inequities in the property tax system have been unsuccessful, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Court of Common Council hereby creates a Tax Task Force for the purpose of examining and analyzing Hartford's property tax system and with making recommendations to the Mayor and Council for State legislation to rectify the imbalances resulting from that system, and be it further

Resolved, That the Tax Task Force shall be composed of seven members, with two appointed by the Mayor, two by the Council President, one by the Council Minority Leader, one by the Majority Leader, and one by the MetroHartford Alliance, and be it further

Resolved, That at least one of the members appointed by the Mayor shall have experience and knowledge of the history and design of Hartford's property tax system and at least one of the members appointed by Court of Common Council members shall have experience with State and/or Federal tax law, and be it further

Resolved, That all members appointed by the Mayor and members of the Court of Common Council shall be Hartford residents and three shall be Hartford homeowners, and be it further

Resolved, That a chairperson of the Tax Task Force shall be chosen by the appointed members, and be it further

Resolved, That all appointments shall be made no later than July 1, 2013 and the first meeting of the Tax Task Force shall be held on or before July 15, 2013, and be it further

Resolved, That the Tax Task Force shall submit to the Mayor and Council, by December 1, 2013, proposed State legislation addressing Hartford's property tax structure, and be it further

Resolved, That the Mayor and Council shall submit proposed legislation to Hartford's State Legislative Delegation by January 1, 2014, and be it further

Resolved, That staff support shall be provided to the Tax Task Force by the Mayor's Legislative Assistant and the Executive Assistants to the Council President, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader and that additional support shall be provided by the Tax Assessor and the Finance Director as needed.

Attest:


Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

Court of Common Council

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, Based on 2010 census data, approximately 230,000 veterans live in Connecticut, and

Whereas, Approximately more than 4,000 veterans live in the City of Hartford, and

Whereas, The Connecticut National Guard says it expects that 887 guard members will return in the next two years from deployment, and

Whereas, It appears that returning veterans will face multiple issues when transitioning to civilian life, being the two major issues employment and health, and

Whereas, The City of Hartford has always tried to be supportive of our veterans and is eternally grateful for their service, and

Whereas, There are a lot of issues that the City may be in the position to help resolve but lacks the information and real needs of the veterans, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the City Council will create the Veteran Affairs Task Force in order to reach out to the community and learn the needs of the Veteran population in the city, and be it further

Resolved, That the Veteran's Affairs Task Force will be composed of at least seven members who will each represent the city, the veterans, the community and agencies and institutions that help with veteran issues, and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Task Force shall either be or work with, veterans that live or work in the City of Hartford and shall be appointed by the Mayor and Council Members based on voluntary nominations as well as agencies and groups nominations, and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Task Force will convene no later than two weeks after the seventh member has been appointed to start the conversation about the needs of the Veteran population in Hartford and choose from the members a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and other board positions that they may feel necessary to fulfill their duties as a Task Force, and be it further

Resolved, That the Veteran Affairs Task Force shall meet at least once a month and shall submit a report of its findings to the Court of Common Council no later than 90 days of it being convened, to develop a common strategy with the City to face the issues of our Veteran population.

Attest:


Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

Court of Common Council

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, The Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation's Youth Services Division serves as Hartford's Youth Service Bureau, and

Whereas, In accordance with the State Statute that governs the Youth Service Bureau program, the Youth Services Division is responsible for the coordination of programs in areas of juvenile justice, crisis intervention, child welfare, mental health, positive youth development, recreational and cultural programs, research on youth issues, development of resources for new and expanded programs, community involvement, and advocacy on behalf of youth and their families, and

Whereas, The CT Department of Education has notified the City that \$160,722 in Youth Service Bureau Grant funds and \$9,777 in YSB Enhancement Grant funds are available for fiscal year 2013-14, and

Whereas, In order to accept the Youth Service Bureau Grant funds, the City must provide a match in an amount at least equal to the amount of the grant, and

Whereas, The City will provide a cash match of \$100,000 which has been included in the City's FY 2013-2014 budget, and an in-kind match of \$81,080, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Mayor is hereby authorized to apply for and accept a Youth Service Bureau (YSB) Grant of \$160,722 and a YSB Enhancement Grant of \$9,777 from the Connecticut Department of Education for Fiscal Year 2013-14, and be it further

Resolved, That the Mayor is authorized to accept such further sums as may be additionally awarded by the grantor under the same program, for the same authorized contract period, and for the same purposes, and be it further

Resolved, That the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all manner of other documents and to take such other actions as he and the Corporation Counsel may deem

appropriate and in the best interests of the City in order to receive, contract and expend the above referenced grant funds, and be it further

Resolved, That no person or entity shall be entitled to rely on, or otherwise claim any benefit by reason of this resolution should the Mayor fail to execute the aforementioned agreement or other documents, or to take any of the aforesaid actions, and be it further

Resolved, That all approvals and authorizations provided hereby are contingent upon, and only shall be effective on and by means of, the parties executing such documents, and taking such actions, all of which shall be, in form and substance, acceptable to the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel.

Attest:



**Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.**

Court of Common Council

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, June 2013 marks the Seventh Anniversary of Caribbean American Heritage Month in the United States; and

Whereas, This special occasion was established to recognize the great contributions of Caribbean Americans in the area of education, government, business, entertainment, sports, the arts and many other fields; and

Whereas, Hartford is home to a significant population of Caribbean Americans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Hartford City Council acknowledge the role that Caribbean Americans have played in the establishment of our Community, our City and our Nation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Court of Common Council declare June as Caribbean American Heritage Month in the City of Hartford; and in recognition, the flags of the various Caribbean Nations be displayed in City Hall throughout the month of June.

Attest:

Kelly Bilodeau
Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

Court of Common Council

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, The sister city concept was inaugurated by the President of the United States in 1956 to establish greater understanding and an exchange of ideas between the people of the United States and other nations through the medium of direct personal contact, and

Whereas, Sister Cities International facilitates the affiliation of U.S. communities with those in other countries of similar characteristics and mutual interests, and

Whereas, The City of Hartford has established Sister City relationships with municipalities throughout the world, and

Whereas, Sister Cities International of Hartford has requested that the City of Hartford enter into a sister city relationship with the city of Sogakope, the capital of the South Tongu District, located in the Volta Region of Ghana in West Africa, and

Whereas, Members of the Hartford affiliate of Sister Cities International – Sarah Hambrick, JoAnne Bauer, Gail Adams, Tanya Barrett, Wayne Coste, Helen Raisz, and Marla Ludwig – have been working closely with members of Youth Creating Change of Ghana since 2005, and

Whereas, Together, they have constructed a water filtration system and a community center, brought in medical supplies and bicycles, and engaged in cross cultural exchanges and recognition and motivational ceremonies, and

Whereas, Sister Cities International Hartford have requested that a Sister City relationship be established between Hartford and Sogakope, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Court of Common Council hereby authorizes the City of Hartford to invite the government and people of Sogakope, the South Tongu District, Volta Region, Ghana

to participate with Hartford as its Sister City for the purpose of creating mutual understanding between the peoples of our communities and nations, and be it further

Resolved, That the Mayor is hereby authorized to act as the official representative of Hartford to implement the Sister City relationship.

Attest:

Kelly Bilodeau
Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, Chapter IV, Section 5 of the City Charter requires that the Court of Common Council meet at least once per month; and

Whereas, The Council Rules call for two meetings each month, except that the rules may provide for only one (1) meeting in the months of July and August; and

Whereas, It has been the practice of the Court of Common Council to meet once in the months of July and August; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the regularly scheduled Council meetings of July 22, 2013 and August 26, 2013 are hereby cancelled.

Attest:


Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

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This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, The Town and City Clerk's office is an integral part of the municipal government; and

Whereas, Chapter IV, Section 4c (2), the City Council establishes the salary for the Town and City Clerk; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Town and City Clerk receive a merit increase in the amount of 7.5% of current salary, with 2.5% retroactive to November 1, 2012, and 5% effective July 1, 2013.

Attest:

Kelly Bilodeau
Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.

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June 25, 2013

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Court of Common Council, June 24, 2013, the following RESOLUTION was passed.

Whereas, Chapter IV, Section 2(j) of the Hartford City Charter, the Council is empowered to “provide by ordinance for such staff and other assistance as the council may deem appropriate to meet its needs, providing that due appropriation has been made therefore, and to provide by ordinance for the method of hiring and terminating such staff”, and

Whereas, Section 2-46 of the City Code provides that “each council member may appoint an executive assistant who shall serve at the pleasure of, and whose duties shall be prescribed by, the council member making said appointment”, and

Whereas, Council Member Raúl De Jesús, Jr. seeks to appoint Samuel M. Pudlin as his executive assistant pursuant to Section 2-46 of the Code of the City of Hartford; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the appointment of Samuel M. Pudlin as executive assistant to Council Member Raúl De Jesús, Jr. is approved, with a bi-weekly salary of \$1,782.69, less applicable employee taxes, deductions and adjustments, for the period commencing on July 1, 2013, and be it further

Resolved, That pursuant to City Code Section 2-46, Mr. Pudlin shall serve at the pleasure of, and perform those duties prescribed by, Council Member De Jesús.

Attest:

Kelly Bilodeau
Kelly Bilodeau,
Assistant Town Clerk.