PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

Testimony by the City of Hartford
Senate Bill 957
An Act Concerning Neighborhood Protection
March 1, 2011, 11:00AM in Hearing Room 1B

Chairmen Duff and Tong, Ranking Members Franz and Alberts, Vice Chairmen Crisco and Larson and the Distinguished Members of the Banks Committee:

On behalf of Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, thank you for raising and hearing testimony on Senate Bill 957, AAC Neighborhood Protection.

Urban areas across the country are taking new, creative and innovative approaches to the issues of blight and housing assistance and the City of Hartford is no exception. While we have an active Housing Department, which provides foreclosure prevention training and assistance, and a comprehensive anti-blight ordinance that has thus far been quite successful; additional tools, such as those granted in SB 957, would allow Hartford, and other municipalities, to focus on the more fundamental and necessary components of protecting homeowners by keeping them in their homes and restoring and old and historic housing stock.

While the City of Hartford supports the bill, there are some concerns that we believe must be addressed:

1. Who would be the verification authority to ensure that proper filing/notification was/has occurred; and
2. What is the penalty for failure to record said action with the town clerk or designated authority?

While the first question is one that provides for no practical solution, it is nevertheless worthy of consideration by this Committee as it deliberates further on this bill. Regarding the second question, it is the City's suggestion that a violation for failure to register (at any point) should be determined by – and at the discretion of – individual municipalities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of S.B. 957. The City of Hartford urges your favorable consideration of this bill with the suggested modification set forth above.

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