



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

INTERACTIVE BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY IN HARTFORD

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(February 24, 2011)--- Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, members of City Council and Department Heads are once again collaborating in a workshop-style format to achieve a fair and balanced budget that meets the needs of residents, taxpayers, and our diverse neighborhoods. The Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting was held in Council Chambers and begins a 6-week process to build a consensus budget to be presented at public hearings. This series of workshops will be facilitated by Leadership Greater Hartford (LGH).

The financial forecast for FY 11-12 currently projects revenues to be flat at \$544,422,155; expenditures are projected to increase by 3.3% to \$564,502,609; this leaves a projected shortfall of \$17,860,454. Thursday's presentation was made by the Mayor, COO David Panagore, Acting Finance Director Christian Johnson and Acting Director of Management and Budget Julio Molleda. They outlined that more than 52% of the budget is dedicated to education, 46% to municipal services, and less than 2% to the Hartford Public Library. Tax collection is the primary way towns and cities collect revenues and the largest expenditures have to do with benefits and pensions.

Mayor Segarra says, "Hartford's financial challenges are unique because we are the Capital City and the job center of the state. We need to be fiscally prudent while maintaining our momentum in areas like education, public safety, and economic development. In balancing the needs of our residents and taxpayers, we must also position our city for growth and prosperity in the future."

Council President rJo Winch once again welcomed the approach utilized so successfully last year. "We set goals and met the challenge. I am certain we will achieve this again as we prioritize the services that most directly impact our residents, especially our children."

The workshops, which are an extension of the city's successful collaborative format used during the Once City, One Plan (POCD 2020) for conservation and development, can be seen on Government Cable Access TV Channel 96.

Here are some important dates:

Fiscal Task Force/Internal Audit/Pension & Benefits:	March 3 rd
Council Priorities & Ideas and Potential Department Reorganizations:	March 8 th
Revenue, Debt, and Capital Improvement Program:	March 17 th
BOE and City/BOE Shared Services:	March 24 th
Recap of Sessions:	March 31 st
Budget due from Mayor to Council:	April 18 th
Budget due from Council to Mayor:	May 21 st
Final Adoption of Budget:	May 31 st