



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

MAYOR SEGARRA DETAILS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA *Social Enterprise Businesses, Early Childhood Education Legislation Among Priorities*

--- NEWS AND COMMUNITY STATEMENT---

(February 21, 2012) --- Mayor Pedro E. Segarra today outlined his legislative priorities for the 2012 Connecticut General Assembly session, which includes support for social business enterprise creation, strengthened early childhood education systems and extended producer responsibility.

Due to its density of nonprofit organizations, hospitals and state buildings, more than half of Hartford's property is tax exempt. To address that reality and Hartford's demography – 30 percent of the City's families live in poverty – Mayor Segarra encourages the passage of legislation that promotes social business enterprise, fully funds PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) and more keenly governs and oversees the creation of nonprofit entities.

"Connecticut's Capital City is a Sanctuary City – not just by designation but by virtue of its willingness to welcome and assist those in need," Mayor Segarra said. "While we embrace that reputation, we must also have the appropriate resources and regulations that enable Hartford to sustain that commitment."

In addition to the legislative priorities that will encourage revitalization and growth, Mayor Segarra is also seeking legislation that will reinforce the school district's commitment to education reform, specifically around early childhood and special education.

"Hartford dedicates nearly 52% of its budget to education, so taxpayers rightly demand a return on their investment," Mayor Segarra said. "I applaud Governor Malloy's ambitious education agenda and encourage the Connecticut General Assembly to support modifications to funding mechanisms at the State level so we can deliver on our promise to all children."

Mayor Segarra is also a strong proponent of extended producer responsibility legislation, particularly a law that would require manufacturers to pay for proper mattress disposal. Hartford spent nearly \$180K to dispose of approximately 18,000 mattresses in 2011; many of those mattresses are dumped illegally by residents of surrounding towns to avoid the payment of disposal fees. Over the past several months, City of Hartford staff have been working with interested stakeholders to draft model legislation; the Mayor lauded Environment Committee co-Chairs Sen. Ed Meyer and Rep. Dick Roy, for their leadership on Raised Bill 89, *An Act Establishing A Mattress Stewardship Program*.

Other items on the Mayor's legislative agenda are:

- Approval of red light cameras.
- Requiring the Department of Correction to provide monthly notification of individuals released on probation or parole to municipal Police Chiefs and Chief Elected Officers.
- Creation of a State-operated domestic violence and aggravated assault database.
- Allowing a municipality to provide for abatement of property taxes for small businesses for a period of up to three years. Raised Bill 5160, *An Act Establishing a Municipal Option to Abate Property Taxes for Small Businesses*, which was drafted and is supported by Rep. Matt Ritter, is scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning & Development Committee tomorrow.

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