



**Eddie A. Perez**  
Mayor

## **BUDGET SCENARIOS**

### **BUDGET WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS WIND DOWN**

#### **---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---**

(March 18, 2010)--- “We’re heading into the homestretch,” said Mayor Eddie A. Perez as he and City Council members continued their Committee of the Whole (COW) budget workshop sessions. The goal is to exchange ideas in order to close a projected \$26.7 million (revised figure) gap for the next fiscal year. The group also discussed long-term strategies for future budgets:

1. consolidate school and city operations
2. move from a defined benefit pension plan to a defined contribution pension
3. establish a new governance model for City parks
4. securitize parking revenues
5. aggressively sell unused and underutilized City assets
6. pursue increased revenues through more advertising on billboards and bus shelters
7. strengthen the City’s financial capacity to improve services, eliminate waste and increase revenue
8. increase the City’s grant-writing staff

Because the above strategies need more research and time to develop, four potential budget scenarios were presented to the COW for discussion purposes. A wide variety of options and combination of these options were put forth to help balance the budget, which is required by City Charter:

1. union concessions
2. eliminating pension increases
3. eliminating education increases
4. closing City Hall every Friday
5. layoffs
6. the economy begins to come back
7. increasing licenses and permits revenue
8. utilizing the fund balance
9. property tax increase

In the case of union concessions, collective bargaining negotiations would need to take place. Council members also brought up an additional option of early retirement, but pension and health benefits would still be long-term costs for the City.

Thursday night’s collaborative effort was once again facilitated by Leadership Greater Hartford and once again aired live on Government Cable Access Television Channel 96 and streamed live on [www.hartford.gov](http://www.hartford.gov)

Per the City Charter, the Mayor’s budget is to be submitted April 19<sup>th</sup>.