



**Pedro E. Segarra**  
**Mayor**

**COLLABORATIVE BUDGET DIALOGUE CONTINUES IN HARTFORD  
PROCESS UNIQUE AMONG CT MUNICIPALITIES**

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

(March 3, 2011)--- The City of Hartford's collaborative budget workshops continue with a focus on the recommendations from the Fiscal Task Force and presentations regarding Internal Audit and Pension and Benefits. Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, members of City Council and Department Heads are working together to achieve a consensus on 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 as part of a 6-week process that is open to the public. This series of workshops is being facilitated by Leadership Greater Hartford (LGH).

Mayor Segarra said, "We must be clear; when it comes to pensions and benefits, we can no longer sustain the way we have been doing things. These are changing times and the process of reform has already begun. It won't change overnight, but it is changing--- starting at the top."

Actions to date include Hartford being the first municipality to join the state for pharmacy benefits saving the City \$1.8 million; an early retirement option; reorganization of many city departments; and working with unions to potentially modify collective bargaining agreements.

More savings will be achieved through this collaborative process. Internal Audit is reviewing potential savings and the Mayor plans to lean on this information more as part of a transparent and responsive government. The financial forecast for FY 11-12 currently projects a shortfall of \$17.8 million

"Our taxpayers are sacrificing a great deal and there must be a sense of responsibility to them that they are making a wise investment," said Mayor Segarra.

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:

Council Priorities & Ideas and Potential Department Reorganizations:	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Revenue, Debt, and Capital Improvement Program:	March 17 <sup>th</sup>
BOE and City/BOE Shared Services:	March 24 <sup>th</sup>
Recap of Sessions:	March 31 <sup>st</sup>
Budget due from Mayor to Council:	April 18 <sup>th</sup>
Public Hearings/Department Hearings:	April/May
Final Adoption of Budget:	May 31 <sup>st</sup>