



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

**ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR  
SERVICES, REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
HARTFORD BUDGET WORKSHOPS CONTINUE**

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

(March 8, 2011)--- Mayor Pedro E. Segarra and City Council members shared ideas as to how Hartford can reduce expenses, improve services, and increase revenues. This is the third session in a series of collaborative budget workshops that is unique to Hartford and designed 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 is held each week 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, "For the past eight months, my office has been leading the charge in reorganizing departments in order to provide more effective and efficient services. For instance, the 311 Call Center is now part of Emergency Services and Telecommunications. Through collaboration come the best ideas. These ideas will not only help balance the budget, but improve our quality of life."

A wide range of ideas suggested, discussed, and prioritized include: use Zip cars instead of the city fleet of vehicles; eliminate special event fee waivers except for those major events that generate significant revenue and positive exposure for the city; eliminate the City Council Cultural Contribution Fund; make energy management a higher priority; merge departments and/or responsibilities especially those shared/duplicated between the City and the Board of Education; require direct deposit for all employees; establish a 'Live in Hartford' campaign; close City Hall on Fridays; mandate customer service training for all employees; share IT services regionally; utilize outdoor advertising as a revenue generator; require better management of overtime; and provide free parking Downtown. The financial forecast for FY 11-12 currently projects a shortfall of \$17.8 million

The workshops, which are an extension of the city's successful collaborative format used during the One City, One Plan (POCD 2020) for conservation and development, can be seen on Government Cable Access TV Channel 96 which streams live on [www.hartford.gov](http://www.hartford.gov).

Here are some important dates:

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>