



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

**MAYOR SEGARRA: LET'S LIFT CITY
TO NEW AND GREATER HEIGHTS
FIRST STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
EMPHASIZES TRANSPARENCY, COLLABORATION AND
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE**

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(March 14, 2011)--- Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra delivered a rousing State of the City Address that highlighted bold and swift accomplishments, focused on immediate needs, and set forth a strategy to make Hartford a safer, cleaner, more educated, more beautiful and a more prosperous city.

“We are a more transparent Hartford; a stronger Hartford; a more positive Hartford; and a Hartford that is much more attractive in the eyes of others, and more importantly, in the hearts and souls of our people. This didn't happen overnight. This didn't happen by government working alone. It happened through community collaboration to ensure a more accountable, more ethical, and a more efficient Hartford. Without partnerships, there can be no real progress,” said Mayor Segarra.

A few highlighted achievements include: investing in the Police Activities League to provide positive choices for Hartford youngsters; building upon the successful *Week of the Parks* campaign and the Bushnell Park Ice Skating Rink that united community and corporate volunteers to clean-up, beautify, and showcase our parks as economic assets; tearing down eyesores like the H.B. Davis Building and opening new business ventures like the Market at Hartford 21; and establishing new apartments at the old Sonesta/Clarion Hotel.

Current issues that must be resolved include closing a \$7 million shortfall for this fiscal year and an almost \$18 million gap for next year. The Mayor called on City Council to continue to work with him to find “diligent and creative ways” to identify the priorities and services that meet the needs of residents, taxpayers, and Hartford's diverse neighborhoods.

Looking ahead, the Mayor wants to continue to invest in Hartford's vital Arts and Heritage community; improve our roads by filling potholes within 100 hours, paving about 40 streets, and creating about 30 jobs in the process; and aggressively pursuing his comprehensive economic development strategy, with a special focus on the 9 cornerstone initiatives. Long-term growth would focus on recruiting medical research, training, and technology jobs to Hartford; enhancing educational and income opportunities for Hartford residents; and being an advocate for comprehensive tax reform that makes Hartford business-friendly and does not overburden our residents.

Throughout the speech, Mayor Segarra focused on the importance of transparency, collaboration, and improving the quality of life for all of Hartford's residents. He quoted Mother Teresa, who said, “We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

He ended his speech by saying, “My friends, the drops in the ocean we have made so far together are already sending positive ripple effects well beyond our borders. So I say to you, the State of the City of Hartford has been lifted during my tenure and with perseverance; we can reach new and greater heights.”