



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

May 18, 2011

VIA HAND-DELIVERY & ELECTRONIC MAIL

Council President rjo Winch
Court of Common Council
City Hall
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Re: **City Adopted Budget for FY 11-12**

Dear Madame President:

When we set out to formally craft a budget in February, there were several principles that I indicated were critical. They were:

1. Defining clear short and long-term visions for the City that were based on well-designed strategic plans that incorporated input from all relevant stakeholders;
2. Homeowners and businesses would not tolerate, nor could they afford, a mill increase;
3. A focus on quality of life issues, including increased City attention – for the first time in several decades – on the condition and maintenance of the *Capital City Parks System*; and
4. Improved customer service and increased efficiency and accountability by Department Heads and city employees.

I am very proud to say that, because of your leadership and the entire Council's willingness to participate in a collaborative process and ongoing dialogue, we have produced for the City of Hartford a budget that conforms to the above principles, and adheres to a change in philosophy that I brought to the City Council as Chairman of the Operations & Budget subcommittee, as Council President, and now as Mayor: responsible and fiscally prudent decision-making that properly balances the Capitol City's ability to pay with the needs and wants of our many diverse communities.

Now, therefore, taking the financial amendments approved by the Court of Common Council at your May 17, 2011 meeting:

- I hereby approve Financial Resolution-1;
- I hereby approve Financial Resolution-2;
- I hereby approve Financial Resolution-3;
- I hereby approve Financial Resolution-4;
- I hereby approve Financial Resolution-5;
- I hereby approve Financial Resolution-6 (as amended);

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With regard to Financial Resolution-6 (as amended), in particular, I am grateful to the Northend community, the Blue Hills Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and the Blue Hills Civic Association, for their persistence in communicating membership concerns to me directly, and to you and Councilman Kennedy for working with me and my administration to expedite the necessary repairs to the Northend Senior Center. I have made every effort during my time in office to seek out and incorporate the needs of the community in every decision that I make, and I'm thankful that Council recognizes the importance of doing the same.

Working together, we have accomplished something very special. This budget addresses critical department and city needs in a fiscally responsible way, and does so in a manner that allows us to meet our obligations and commitments, streamlines government, and focuses on critical quality of life issues. The fundamentals of my Recommended Budget were also preserved in that no new spending is included outside of legal commitments, accountability is enhanced, the tax burden has been lessened, Police and Fire recruit classes were maintained, summer youth employment was made a priority, and our development and capital improvement programs will finally be aligned with *One City, One Plan*, Hartford's Plan of Conservation and Development.

This City has made terrific progress since I took the oath of office on June 25, 2010, and I look forward to continuing to work with you and the members of the Court of Common Council to make sure that Connecticut's Capitol City is once again regarded as a terrific place to live, work, and raise a family.

Respectfully,


Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

Cc: John Bazzano, City & Town Clerk
Majority Leader Jim Boucher
Minority Leader Luis Cotto
Councilman Calixto Torres
Councilman Alex Aponte
Councilman Ken Kennedy
Councilman Bob Painter
Councilman Larry Deutsch
Councilman Corey Brinson