



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

MAYOR + COUNCIL = ZERO MILL RATE INCREASE IN HARTFORD

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(May 19, 2010)--- Mayor Eddie A. Perez and members of the Court of Common Council today announced several resolutions that amend the proposed balanced budget through additional revenue and cuts that amount to a zero mill rate increase for Hartford residents. Some property owners, however, will see an increase in their tax bill due to the phase in of revaluation and the phase out of the business surcharge.

“For five months, we have worked together towards achieving a consensus budget that closed a \$43 million fund gap. Despite the global recession, we have found a way to lessen the additional economic stress for our residents and business owners,” said Mayor Perez.

Council President Pedro Segarra said, “A cooperative tone and spirit and a goal of consensus has been there from the beginning of our discussions. Tough decisions were made in the best interest of our taxpayers and our needed services.”

The \$3,880,000 in additional revenues will be achieved through increases in areas like Licenses and Permits, Intergovernmental Revenue and other financing sources. The Council also called upon the State delegation to request a Special Session of the General Assembly to recognize the serious need to pass legislation to enable the collection of conveyance taxes and a continued call for real property tax reform to equalize the tax burden among all state taxpayers regardless of geography.

Acknowledging that additional revenue is only part of the equation, there will be reductions in salaries and benefits through concessions, retirements, and pension contributions in order for City employees to continue to deliver the best possible services to residents and business owners. This would total more than \$7 million. There’s an additional \$2.775 million in departmental and funding cuts including a reduction in the City’s direct contribution to education from \$2.5 million to \$1.25 million, a \$100,000 reduction to the Arts Stimulus, \$100,000 less in City contributions to Public Programs, and \$250,000 less to the Contingency Account.

All total, these amendments amount to \$9,838,397 in additional revenue and cuts and thus equals a zero increase in the mill rate.

“We will continue to work hard to build upon our positive momentum in public safety, education, and economic development while maintaining our fiscal responsibility,” said Mayor Perez.