



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

BUILDING A BETTER NORTH HARTFORD

---NEWS RELEASE---

(August 25, 2009) --- Hartford is positioning itself for growth for when the country recovers from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Mayor Eddie A. Perez invites residents and visitors alike to “Come See For Yourself!” all the improvements Hartford has made, is making, and plans to make in the very near future.

Mayor Perez says, “We’re building a better Hartford and a good deal of our progress is being made north of I-84. Whether you’re talking about student academic achievement, new housing units, or fewer serious crimes, that fact of the matter is that communities are working with businesses and government and people are part of the solution.”

When it comes to Hartford Public Schools, in which Mayor Perez is proud to serve as a member of the Board of Education, student test scores are up two years in a row. North End neighborhood schools share in this success:

1. Annie Fisher School up 9.2%
2. J.C. Clark Elementary School up 7.0%
3. M.L. King School up 6.9%
4. Simpson-Waverly School up 6.6%
5. Quirk Middle School up 6.4%
6. Wish School up 5.7%

“We still have a long way to go, but this is significant movement in the right direction in our efforts of closing the Achievement Gap between urban and suburban schools,” says Mayor Perez.

Other educational success stories include providing our youngsters with a positive learning environment by constructing and renovating school buildings. This is not only good for education it is good for job creation. Capital Prep is moving into its own facility at the old Barnard Brown building in January. Capital Prep is a nationally ranked school that will have a new \$24 million home in which 51 Hartford residents have helped construct, earning more than \$486,000 in wages.

School construction projects are only part of Hartford’s economic development plan and job creation equation. Have you seen Albany Avenue lately? From the new Handel Center for the

Performing at the University of Hartford to the new YMCA, to the new Public Safety Complex, Hartford is connecting the dots of its success and you can feel the positive energy. At U of H, this \$17 million project made good use of an abandoned car dealership that stood at a gateway location. It is now the home for classes, offices, rehearsal space, a bank, a café, and of course performance space. This is also an excellent example of partnering with the community. U of H is going beyond its campus to showcase how it is a private institution with a public purpose and is helping to build a better Hartford.

At the other end of the Albany Avenue success story is the new Public Safety Complex. This facility will be the new home for police, fire, and emergency services. It is also the cornerstone of Hartford's economic development plan because it connects the Clay Arsenal, Upper Albany, and Asylum Hill neighborhoods to Downtown's progress. This construction project alone is creating 800 jobs with 30 percent for minority and small businesses.

While the home for Public Safety will be complete in April of 2011, "Success is never final," according to Police Chief Daryl K. Roberts. Serious crime continues to be reduced in every neighborhood. Positive relationships with police are essential and once again residents are reminded of the community-based anonymous tip line "Hartford Crime Stoppers." It monetarily rewards tipsters if their information leads to an arrest. Hartford Crime Stoppers will be celebrating one year of success with more than 250 tips leading to six arrests.

When residents are stakeholders in the community, that community becomes safer and more vibrant. Homeownership, as well as affordable housing units, contributes to that positive atmosphere. Since 2002, more than 1300 housing units have been built in North Hartford alone. An example of new housing construction is the Victory Cathedral VOA Elderly Housing on Bellevue Street. Other notable projects include a strong and vital relationship with Habitat for Humanity. Since 2002, 57 homes have been built in North Hartford with seven more under construction on Guilford Street.

This image of building is crucial to Hartford's future image but building a future is not just bricks and mortar, it is investing in people, especially Hartford's youth. The Mayor's Office is proud that its internship program is being emulated by the City of Baltimore in providing creative and substantive opportunities for college students as well as high school students, thanks to the Hartford Office for Youth Services and its partnerships with the Urban League of Greater Hartford, the Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum, Capital Workforce Partners, and Hartford Public Schools.

With the public and private sectors working together, a better Hartford can and will be built--- in all 17 neighborhoods. Come see for yourself.