Hartford
New England's Rising Star℠
FALL 2006
Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

The Mayor's UPDATE

Accountability matters. Results matter. Our children matter most. That is why I am proud that Dr. Steven Adamowski is the new Superintendent of Hartford Public Schools. He strongly shares my view that our kids must come first.

Dr. Adamowski is a nationally recognized educator who has a proven track record in raising student achievement in the classroom and raising expectations on receiving a four-year college degree. He understands the challenges of urban education but most importantly, he believes in kids learning and he believes in them succeeding. **Hartford Public Schools must be accountable for producing excellent educational results.**

The Search Committee (made up of parents, educators, business leaders, and Board of Education members) interviewed candidates from all over the country and unanimously agreed that Dr. Adamowski has "the right stuff" to move Hartford Public Schools forward in thinking and upward in achieving. He also has the full support of the Board of Education, of which I am proud to serve as Chairman.

Dr. Adamowski has strong ties to the City of Hartford and to the State of Connecticut, including receiving his Masters Degree from Trinity College and his Bachelors Degree from Southern Connecticut State College. One of his four previous Superintendent positions was with Norwich Public Schools. He was also a Principal in Farmington as well as a Teacher in New Haven. Now Dr. Adamowski is returning to his educational roots after improving the effectiveness and standards of school districts on the national scene with his work in Washington D.C., Cincinnati, and in Delaware.

Government must be accountable to you. Our educational system must be accountable to our children. Let's achieve excellent results together!

Sincerely,

Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

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Customer Service and Technology MATTER!

Mayor Perez observes as this Constituent Services Representative helps a caller who dialed 311.

Hartford's 311 Call Center is up and running and ready to serve you!

By dialing these three easy numbers, Hartford residents will have easy access to non-emergency city services (such as requesting to get a pothole fixed) and information, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please note that if you are using a cell phone or a computer-activated phone line, you need to dial 757-9311.

Mayor Perez says, "Effective and efficient customer service is crucial. Streamlining requests is essential to good government. 311 will cut down on duplication between departments and help us get the job done fast and get the job done right the first time."

WIRELESS HARTFORD IS NOW LIVE!

Mayor Perez wants to close the digital divide that exists in Hartford because approximately two thirds of the city's households lack a working computer and access to the Internet. The first phase of the Wireless Hartford program provides wireless access, training, and low cost WIFI ready computers to residents in the Downtown and Blue Hills neighborhoods.

Any Hartford resident can log on with a wireless computer in the pilot neighborhoods. Starting 1/07, households will have 20 hours a month of free wireless access in the pilot areas. For unlimited use, households will pay about $20 a month. Prior to 1/07, access will be available for residents after creating an account. The initiative will expand city wide as more funding becomes available. **If you have questions, please dial 311** *(see story above)*

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PILOT PROGRAM:

Who's eligible:
Residents age 18 and up from Blue Hills and Downtown neighborhoods

What's available:
Free computer training class and WIFI ready computer for $150

How payable:
Personal checks or money orders with picture ID and current utility bill

Where available:
121 Cornwall Street
(Computer training and computers)

Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 pm-8:00 pm & Saturdays 10 am-3 pm

Additional training sites:
Hartford Public Library's Main and Blue Hills branches

Public Safety and Business MATTER!

Safety first!

Hartford is safer today than five years ago. Hartford's Community Policing Plan is producing positive results. Residents and other investors in every neighborhood must look at the big picture because we are committed to our city's historic, diverse, and growing vibrancy for the long haul. This year alone, we will have put an additional 14 new officers on the streets, making our dedicated rank and file 418 strong. In early 2007, 23 more officers will graduate from the academy and another class will start.

If you look at the five-year trend, overall serious crime citywide is down almost four-percent. The most progress has been made in preventing rape, burglary, and auto theft. The biggest challenge remains keeping illegal guns off our streets and out of the hands of our young people. Once again, Mayor Perez is making it a top priority to fight for tough state gun legislation requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms within 72 hours.

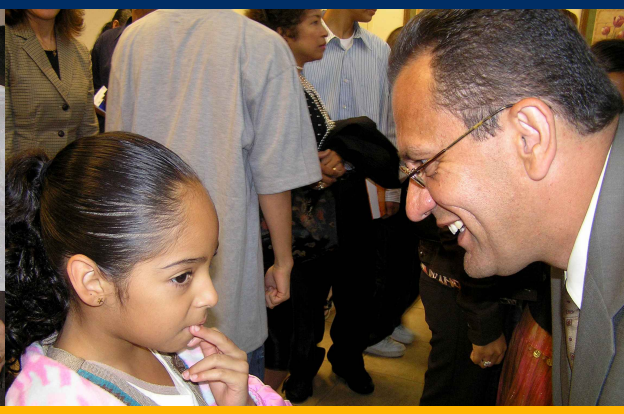
Hartford remembers. *Lt. Joe Partridge of the Hartford Fire Department stands with his son at the September 11th Observance Ceremony at the Old State House. Mayor Perez says, "In response to that tragic day, Hartford offered love, support, money, blood donations, firefighters and equipment to those in need. What we received in return was a stronger resolve. Let us never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice – all for the love of country, freedom, and family."*

HARTFORD IS BLISS!

Bliss Market, a grocery store with a long Hartford history and strong reputation for quality meats and prepared gourmet meals, is moving into the new Hartford 21 tower. With the Downtown skyline redefined, there are 1,000 new housing units and there's now a new place for the growing number of Downtown residents and employees to food shop!

Bliss opened its first store back in the 1930's on the corner of Bliss Street and Franklin Avenue. It later moved to Wethersfield. Adding the new Hartford location means adding 32 new jobs to the city's economy. Mayor Perez says, "Hartford means business when it comes to being a great destination to live, work, and play. By adding more residents and an outstanding place to food shop, it's proof that the Downtown vision is clear and the benefits will spill over to our neighborhoods and our region."

Volunteers and Communities MATTER!



Mayor Perez meets with youngsters at St. Monica's Episcopal Church and The House of Restoration Church, both in the Clay Arsenal neighborhood.

Our Kids Come First!

Mayor Perez wants to thank the volunteers who signed up with community organizations to be more engaged in the lives of Hartford youth! The Volunteers of Faith Recruitment Fair at Thomas J. Quirk Middle School was a big success. Folks signed up to make a difference in the lives our children through tutoring, mentoring, coaching, and other innovative ways to share their skills. This recruitment fair was the culmination of a summer-long church tour to help our youngsters feel more connected to their community. Another fair is being scheduled for the spring!

A HARTFORD STAR IS LAID TO REST.

Ella Little Cromwell passed away in September at the age of 88. In honor of "Queen Ella's" tireless work, Mayor Perez has proposed that Vine Street shall also bear her name. Mayor Perez says, "Hartford has lost a champion of the people. Mrs. Cromwell embraced the residents as her family. She was an impressive leader in the community. Her devotion to providing hope and improving our quality of life set the standard for others to follow."

SEWER SYSTEM INFORMATION

On November 7, 2006, Hartford voters will be asked to vote on a bond referendum to upgrade the city's wastewater and sewer systems which is 150-years old. Residents are being asked to review information regarding upgrading the system. Sanitary waste from neighboring suburbs flows into the Water Treatment Plant in the City. However, Hartford does not have the modern two-pipe system that carries storm water and wastewater separately. Our sewers use one pipe for both types of water. This means when it rains heavily, many city basements can flood because there's too much water and too few pipes. Residents are encouraged to find out more about the Clean Water Project. For more information, please call (860) 278-7850, ext. 3209.

Education **MATTERS!**

Left: Not only is this Breakthrough Magnet student excited about his new uniform, he wants to show Mayor Perez what he brought for lunch on the first day of school!

Below: Hartford Public School Students are all smiles about their new uniforms!

NEW uniforms, renovation, school construction!

Hartford has a new attitude towards learning! Mayor Perez, who also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Education, is ecstatic about how happy and proud Hartford Public School students, teachers, and parents look every day when it comes to the new school uniforms. The mandatory policy is now in place for grades Pre-K through 8 and the compliance rate on the first day was 97%!

Something else that is exciting is all the new school construction and renovations! Highlights this year include:

1. Breakthrough Magnet School: $29,500,000 invested in constructing this brand new facility for Pre-K through 8th graders. Some unique features of the building include a "green roof" as well as a math lab, a media center, and an outdoor amphitheater.

2. Burr Elementary School: $28,000,000 in construction and renovation translates into a new gymnasium, cafeteria, and classrooms, as well as new playgrounds and parking areas.

3. Hartford Magnet Middle is a Blue Ribbon School! This is the third such national honor bestowed on a Hartford School!

Mayor Perez says, "It's a new era in education here in Hartford. The emphasis is on learning. Our goal is to increase the number of Hartford students who graduate from four-year colleges. The dreams start with our youngest students and must be re-enforced all the way through the high school years. High goals have now been set. We've raised the bar on expectations. We are ready to achieve improved results."

A new initiative from the Office of Mayor Eddie A. Perez

Hartford 311

Dial 311 for easy access to City services and information

From most Hartford phone lines - Others call 860-757-9311

CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES