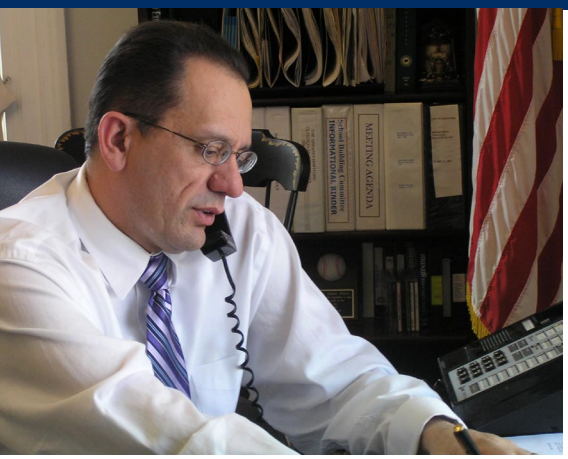
Hartford
New England's Rising Star℠
FALL/WINTER 2008
Eddie A. Perez, Mayor




# The Mayor's UPDATE

## Straight Budget Talk

**As we look ahead to a new season and a new year, we must take to heart the phrase that so eloquently defines the city seal of our government – "After the Clouds... the Sun." There is hope in these difficult times.** I assure you that I am bringing everyone to the table to overcome the financial challenges that face us.

Hartford has taken decisive action to maintain a balanced budget and keep our fiscal house in order. We continue to reduce spending and enhance revenues. Every department, with the exception of police officers, firefighters, and emergency services personnel, is doing more with less while providing essential services. We are also working to achieve savings through reducing energy costs and looking to sell assets.

These decisions are not easy. 132 non-public safety positions were eliminated by not filling vacancies, offering an early-retirement incentive, and sadly, through layoffs. These are not just numbers, these are people we know and work with. I wish we could have avoided this because it is the last thing any city leader wishes to do. However, we have a duty to our taxpayers and residents to meet financial challenges head on.

This is a national financial crisis that calls for tough decisions, creative solutions, bold leadership, and clear vision. We need to work together to find new ways to reduce costs in city government and best utilize taxpayer dollars. **That is why, I look to you. I encourage you to log on to www.hartford.gov and click on "Budget Survey" located in the box called "About Hartford" so that we can achieve the results together.**

While we navigate through this challenging budget, I want you to know that Congress has authorized an initial grant of $2.8 million. Our Department of Development Services will implement these funds to have the best possible impact and reduce foreclosures and the negative effects this financial crisis could have on our neighborhoods. I am also hopeful under an Obama Administration, Hartford will see more progressive investments to help our communities thrive and prosper.

Everything we can do together, we will. **Remember, "After the Clouds... the Sun."**

Sincerely,

**Eddie A. Perez,** *Mayor*

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# HARTFORD CARES!

## *And So Does Bill Cosby!*

PHOTO: CARLOS HERNANDEZ-CHAVEZ

**Dr. Cosby addressed a packed audience at Bulkeley High School for "Hartford Cares! And So Does Bill Cosby!"** The panelists who joined Dr. Cosby and me on stage included Luis Rodriguez, a Hartford High graduate and current UConn student; Ebony Hass, 11th grade student at Bulkeley High School; Gayle Allen-Greene, Principal at Bulkeley's Upper School; Greg Bartlett, math teacher at Bulkeley; Mayra Esquilin, parent; Dr. Calvin Woodland, President of Capital Community College; and Dr. Steve Perry, Principal at Capital Prep Magnet School. Each shared their wishes to have parents and students take more personal responsibility in regards to education, family, and community.

When the City enforced the curfew, Dr. Cosby called me to support our efforts and offered to return to Hartford. He empowered and informed families and the panelists poignantly shared their hopes, wishes, and dreams that ranged from increasing participation at parent-teacher conferences to increasing the number of students who graduate from college.

The Aetna, Mayor Perez's Rising Stars for Hartford and the Patricelli Family Foundation were the underwriters for the "Hartford Cares" program, hosted by Leadership Greater Hartford and the City of Hartford.

## BE THE CHANGE!

***Be an Ambassador of Hartford!*** My on-going Volunteers of Faith tour is one way I let people know that they are stakeholders in the community and can serve on Boards and Commissions. The Juvenile Review Board (JRB) is one such opportunity, especially for residents who want to be more involved with young people. For more information, call the Office For Youth Services at (860) 757-9880. For a list of other Boards and Commissions go to our main webpage at **www.hartford.gov**.

***Mayor Perez*** *and* ***Council President Calixto Torres*** *congratulate* ***Sgt. Heriberto Resto,*** *Commander of the Mounted Patrol Unit, seen here with his horse Caseque.*

# Building Safe and Vibrant Neighborhoods!

**Public Safety is reaching new heights now that Hartford's Mounted Patrol Division has returned!** Four officers and their horses are now part of the City's Neighborhood Policing Plan and are used in everything from search and rescue efforts to community outreach.

**Enforcing the City's curfew works!** Parents and caregivers know where their children are at 9:00 p.m. – home and getting ready for the next school day! During a 60-day concentrated enforcement, there were 157 written warnings and only 4 repeat offenders who were summoned to Community Court.

**Hartford Crime Stoppers Hotline is working for you!** Cash rewards are offered for tips that lead to an arrest. Information is confidential, just call **(860) 722-TIPS (8477).**

Try our new 311 Self-Service portal at **www.hartford.gov/311**

***Commitment to Community!*** *Whether it is the sound of children gracing a new playground in Keney Park in our Upper Albany neighborhood or a blessing by The Mageepa Project at the new South Branch of the Park River Trail in the Behind the Rocks neighborhood, "Going Green" is one of the best investments Hartford can make!*

# Hartford is Building Up!

*As Mayor, I am proud of the City of Hartford's commitment to developing more housing options for families and workers. (Left): Breaking ground for 58 new condominiums at Dutch Point in the Sheldon-Charter Oak neighborhood. (Right): Creating 57 new apartments at North End Gateway in the Clay Arsenal neighborhood.*

## *School Uniform Policy Making National Headlines!*

**Hartford students are catching the eye of national newspapers and websites for the school system's uniform policy.** As Chairman of the Board of Education, I feel uniforms provide our young people with a sense of pride and help put the focus on learning. This vision was first implemented in September of 2006 and has the full support of parents, teachers, and our community. Students at The Nursing Academy at Hartford Public High School wear their trademark scrubs. Seniors are in lab coats.

## COMMITMENT TO JOBS AND THE ENVIRONMENT!

***Strong investment in Hartford!*** Sims Metal Management Aerospace has signed a long-term lease to occupy the entire former ADVO building in the North Meadows neighborhood retaining the company's 130 jobs in the city. This company is the world's largest full service recycler of metals and electronics. It, along with Winstanley Enterprises, also entered into an agreement on the adjacent parcel of land located at 219 West Service Road. Winstanley will construct and Sims Metal Management Aerospace will lease an additional 145,000 square foot warehouse facility at this location. As Mayor, I am proud of this announcement because it is a great investment for Hartford in regards to jobs, the environment, and our future. This is the kind of investment that demonstrates great promise for the Capital City, the region, and the state.

# It's Happening in Hartford!

1.

1. *The Bulkeley Bridge is 100 years old!*
   *(Photo is courtesy of Rob Moore)*

2. *Hartford Hospitality Tour 2008-2009!*
   *(Photo courtesy Laura Soll)*

3. *Ann Street is now Ann Uccello Street!*

4. *Celebrating our Sister City, Floridia, Italy!*