Hartford
New England's Rising Star℠
FALL 2005
Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

The Mayor's UPDATE

EDUCATION = EMPOWERMENT. It is a simple equation that can improve the quality of life for all of Hartford's residents. The cycle of learning now begins at birth thanks to our new Office for Young Children, and the benefits are intended to last a lifetime.

$800 million is being invested in Hartford schools over the next ten years. Seven schools are under construction or being renovated right now in several Hartford neighborhoods. Already, thousands of students in the Blue Hills, South End, West End, and Asylum Hill neighborhoods have returned to new classrooms, new cafeterias, and new entrances.

The new bricks and mortar are a symbol of the firm educational foundation our students will receive. We are increasing the opportunities for our children to achieve excellence. Whether by raising the bar and strengthening the curriculum in public schools, having our 24,000 students exposed to college at an early age (including thousands visiting a college campus), or by private schools working to attract Hartford students– the goal is to get more of our local talent achieving a four-year college degree and then reinvesting their skills in Hartford.

I want students– as young as elementary school– to prepare for college. Hartford is on its way to increasing the number of four-year college graduates by 25 percent! Statistics show that people with a Bachelor's degree have

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE *(continued)*

the potential to earn a million dollars more in their lifetime. How about that investment!

The cycle of empowerment that begins with education, leads to higher paying jobs. There are about 120,000 jobs in the Capital City and almost half require a Bachelor's degree or higher. This standard will only increase in the coming years. We must prepare our youngsters for the 21st century job market.

High quality jobs encourage a higher homeownership rate. When more people own homes, this increases the level of community pride, which in turn helps build a more caring and safer neighborhood.

Safety continues the circle – making areas more attractive to economic development. A competitive region filled with families, schools, and businesses is good for everyone.

The cycle of empowerment is seamless and the only snowball effect is success. Remember, education = empowerment – embrace it!

Sincerely,

Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

MAYOR PEREZ TELLS STUDENTS: *"The First Day of School is the First Day of the Rest of Your Life!"*

Mayor Perez believes the first day of school sets the tone for the rest of the school year. *That tone is "awesome" at Dr. James H. Naylor School, thanks to $31 million in renovations and new construction. The Mayor enjoyed breakfast with youngsters in the brand new cafeteria. Students can also enjoy learning in new classrooms and arriving to school through the new entrance.*

MAYOR PEREZ SAYS

Hartford is Prepared to Respond to Major Hurricane

Mayor Perez** tours Hartford's Flood Control System that engineers say is designed to withstand the kind of storms that could happen **"once every 500 years."

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Mayor Perez toured the Flood Control System that protects Hartford and surrounding communities from any potential catastrophic flooding of the Connecticut River.

The Mayor is proud to say that the 7.4 miles of dike and six pump stations are well maintained and fully functional. However, to preserve the integrity of the system, about $30 million will be needed from the State over the next five years to protect the residents of Hartford as well as key regional assets, such as the MDC Sewage Treatment Plant, the State Armory, State Capitol, and the many downtown businesses that employ more than 120,000 people.

Being mindful of history, Mayor Perez says we cannot forget the great floods of 1936 and 1938 that devastated Hartford. That is what prompted the Army Corps of Engineers to spend $1 billion to build this Flood Control System. It is designed to withstand the kind of storm that could hit once every 500 years.

However, Mother Nature's fury was unleashed along the nation's Gulf Coast. The savage winds and rain of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are gone, but the clean-up and recovery efforts are far from over. Mayor Perez continues to thank Hartford residents, employees, and corporations for their generous support and donations made on behalf of the evacuees.

The Mayor encourages folks to continue to give to organizations, like the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and AmeriCares that are set up to directly help in the relief effort. If there are any questions concerning the comfort and support of storm victims, call the 2-1-1 Infoline.

In the case of New Orleans, in particular, many people have lost their homes and livelihoods. But Hartford was founded on the premise of providing hope and opportunity. So we will keep that hope alive in continuing to help our fellow Americans in need.

Mayor Perez says, "If the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina has taught us anything, it is that we can ill afford to neglect this invaluable infrastructure."

REMINDER:
Leaf Collection Starts around October 24th!

Report Card:

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING PLAN MAKING POSITIVE STRIDES

Mayor Eddie Perez continues his strong stance against violent crime in every Hartford neighborhood. Thanks to the flexibility of the new Neighborhood Policing Plan, the Hartford Police Department was able to redouble its efforts in communities by providing a highly visible presence with its Conditions Units, which include additional foot and bike patrols and more traffic enforcement.

Overall violent crime is down double digits throughout the Capital City. Whether it is city, state, and federal authorities working together to round up suspected drug dealers, or community organizations taking the lead by sponsoring programs to protect and educate our youth– Mayor Perez believes safe neighborhoods are essential for our families and our businesses. Making arrests and prosecuting criminals is one way to combat crime. Another way is through the Quality of Life Task Force. Cleaning up streets, eliminating debris, towing abandoned cars, and sprucing up the presentation of businesses all have a positive effect on everyone who lives and works here. Dramatic results can be seen in both the North and Sound End.

The Quality of Life Task Force report is out. Recommendations have been made by City Council. Mayor Perez is looking to do even more by finding ways to empower inspectors to issue citations for quality of life infractions.

We'll keep you updated on the progress!

Quality of Life Questions Just a Click Away!

GO TO www.hartford.gov

MAYOR PEREZ COMING TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ON CHANNEL 21

Mayor Perez is featuring every Hartford neighborhood on his three government cable access shows. Whether he's talking about safe communities, economic development, homeownership, or education, Mayor Perez wants you to know all the positive things that are happening on your streets. He's already been in several neighborhoods from Behind the Rocks to Downtown to Clay Arsenal. Just watch and see where he'll be next!

***Mayor Perez** creates a buzz in every Hartford neighborhood when he tapes his shows for Hartford Government Cable Access Channel 21*

TWO TOP NAME HOTELS

Open in Hartford in less than Six Months

Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Marriot Hartford Downtown

First it was the new and improved Hilton Hartford. Now, the Marriott Hartford Downtown is open for business. That means in less than six months, two major hotels have opened their doors to guests visiting New England's Rising Star!

Mayor Perez is proud of the positive impact this means for the local economy. More than 200 jobs were created for Hartford residents with the new Marriott alone. And don't forget--- more than 120 local jobs at the Hilton were saved, thanks to Mayor Perez! Whether these positions are in construction or essential service positions, it is important that Hartford residents have the opportunity to obtain skills that can last a lifetime and health and financial benefits that solidify their family's security.

History Made in Hartford!

***Mayor Perez** congratulates **Captain Edward Casares, Jr.**, Hartford's first Hispanic Deputy Fire Marshall. **Fire Chief Charles Teale Sr., Chaplain Rabbi Shlomo Yaffee,** and **City Council President Hernan LaFontaine** applaud.*

Mayor Eddie Perez, who made history becoming Hartford's first Latino Mayor, was on hand for another first in the Capital City. Edward Casares, Jr., is the first Hispanic to be promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal, with the rank of Captain, in the Fire Department's 216-year history. Captain Casares is a 25-year veteran of the department.