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

# The Mayor's UPDATE

**Summer is a time when families should come together, feel safe, and enjoy their neighborhood and all of Hartford. Here's what's being done so you can do just that.**

More police officers will be on the streets – on foot patrol and on bike patrol. They will be making connections with the community to stop the violence while they continue to reduce other crimes. 38 new officers have joined the ranks and this year's budget calls for a new class of 25 officers to begin training.

While the city is redoubling its efforts to get illegal guns off the streets, this is only part of our crime-fighting plan. Jobs, education, recreation, and good old-fashioned parental guidance are also a part of the safe neighborhood solution. We're making positive strides, but there's more work to be done.

More than 1,000 of the City's young people have summer jobs through Capitol Workforce Partners. Contact www.capitalworkforce.org and www.jobcorps.doleta.gov/centers/ct.cfm for more information.

There's also plenty of learning to be done. Hartford Public Schools' Summer Academy is providing students in grades K-8 the opportunity to strengthen their readings skills. High school students are able to take courses to get their academics back on track. An Advancement Program is also being offered so that high school students can earn additional credits towards graduation in more than a dozen courses, including Chemistry, Algebra, English, and World History.

*(continued on back page)*

# HUD SECRETARY IMPRESSED

## *With Hartford's Development Progress*

*Hartford **Mayor Eddie Perez** stands with **HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson** praising how the City of Hartford has used federal dollars to increase homeownership and spark more neighborhood economic development. **City Councilperson rJo Winch** and **Archbishop Henry Mansell** look on.*

**Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Alphonso Jackson joined Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez in a neighborhood tour to meet local homeowners.** Secretary Jackson says he is "extremely pleased" with how the City of Hartford is utilizing federal funds to increase home-ownership and to spark more neighborhood economic development.

Mayor Perez says, "Secretary Jackson assured me that HUD will look favorably on any requests for federal funding that we may have in the future."

Part of the Mayor's vision includes increasing the number of first time homebuyers in Nelton Court in Hartford's North End and at Park and Main Streets, in the City's South Green neighborhood.

This spring, the Mayor took the Secretary on a guided tour of two housing developments – Stowe Village in the North End and Rice Heights in the Behind the Rocks section of the City. They talked to homeowners about achieving their slice of the American Dream. There are 800 new homeowners in the City since 2002.

# *Mayor Perez Promotes* EARLY COLLEGE AWARENESS

***Mayor Perez** listens as students from **SANDS Elementary School** show off their reading skills.*

**Mayor Eddie Perez wants to hear more Hartford Public School students say, "I'm going to college!"** That's the premise behind the 2nd annual Early College Awareness Day, in conjunction with the Foundation for Excellent Schools (FES).

More than 300 volunteers from the educational, community, and business worlds went to more than 30 Hartford elementary, middle, and high schools. The goal is to prepare and inspire students for a 4-year college education.

Mayor Perez says, " We need to plant the seed for college at an early age. Our students need to know what courses to take to better prepare them for higher levels of education." The Mayor adds, "Education is the key to opening the doors of opportunity in our City, and in our society. About half of the jobs in Hartford today require at least a Bachelor's degree. That number will only grow in the future, and Hartford students cannot and will not be left out."

To reinforce this message, once again, all of the students at Dwight Elementary School visited Central Connecticut State University for an entire day. The story was featured in the New York Times. And new this year, all fifth graders in Hartford got the chance to visit a college campus, as part of the Mayor's Education Initiative.

Parents are not being left out of this equation. Educational forums have been conducted at the middle school level so that families know what academic and financial preparations need to be made in order to send their child off to college. Stay tuned for more of these forums in the fall!

## THE MAYOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION MESSAGE GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION

**Historic Hartford is in the national spotlight!** Mayor Eddie Perez and the "Victorian Lady" on Ashley Street in the Asylum Hill neighborhood will be featured on the Home and Garden Television show "Restore America" starting this fall. The Queen Anne Style home is one of 12 examples nationwide on how preservation plays an important role in the revitalization of cities. Mayor Perez talks about the City's new Historical Preservation Ordinance – a sweeping measure that not only helps these homes keep with the integrity of the historical period, but also does not pose a financial burden on Hartford homeowners.

*Hartford **Mayor Eddie Perez** is being interviewed by **HGTV** about restoring historic homes.* Photo: Courtesy Andy Hart.

## NEW FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE IS NOW IN EFFECT

**If you live or own a business in the City of Hartford, you should have your alarm system registered.** Mayor Eddie Perez believes the Hartford Police and Fire Departments respond to too many false alarms. Public safety is a top priority of the Perez Administration. Cutting down on the number of false alarms makes our brave officers and firefighters more readily available in case there is a true emergency.

Alarm systems must be registered with the City's Department of Emergency Services and Telecommunications. Even if you have been on the list in the past, you need to sign up again.

The fine for not registering your alarm is $99. There is no charge if crews respond to two false alarms, but there's a $45 fine for a third offense, and a $90 fine for all false alarm calls after that.

To register, call (860) 527-6300 or visit our website at http://www.hartford.gov/EmergencyServices/default.htm

## NEW DEVELOPMENT ON THE WAY – FROM PARK STREET TO PEARL STREET – *AND BEYOND!*

**Hartford is on the rise in every neighborhood.** And now the bids are in to get in on the ground floor of all the excitement in the South Green section of the City.

The corner of Park and Main Streets is an outstanding opportunity for growth and development. It will be transformed into retail/commercial and residential space. This provides a wonderful opportunity for creative ideas that keep with the urban environment and showcase the existing architecture.

Also on the development front – 95-101 Pearl Street is a hot property. Here's a chance to add 50 new homeowners to Downtown. 800 people have already joined the ranks of homeownership in Hartford since 2002.

The newest land for sale is a 4-acre parcel on Main Street that will provide a gateway to the Clay-Arsenal neighborhood. This piece of land has been the site of a home, a hotel, and is now vacant. 1450 Main Street is located not far from the MetroCenter shopping complex at Main and Pavilion Streets, which opened in the spring. The goal is for it to be used for both residential and retail purposes.

# *News Flash from the Capitol!*

**MORE STATE FUNDING IS ON THE WAY!** Mayor Perez, City Council members, and the Hartford legislative delegation fought hard to reign in an extra $5 million dollars above Governor Rell's recommended budget for Hartford education and public safety. This additional money will prevent a 2-mil increase for Hartford taxpayers. It also will increase the quality of education for our students and the safety for all of our residents!

# MAYOR PEREZ SAYS

## *Educating our Children Starts at Birth*

**Mayor Eddie Perez believes it is never too early to start learning, so why not from the moment you're born!** That's the premise behind his "Hartford Blueprint for Young Children." It is a comprehensive plan for our youngest citizens – age zero to 8 to give them the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

Under the leadership of the Mayor, this five-year, $185 million plan, was devised by educational and health experts. It will help make families aware of the steps that need to be taken in order to ensure their child's success. **Those steps include:**

1. *Health screenings for newborns and medical home visits for families.*
2. *Supportive and knowledgeable parents who act as their child's first teachers, encouraging learning, along with health, growth and development.*
3. *Affordable and dependable quality early childhood care and education.*
4. *A seamless transition from pre-school to Kindergarten.*
5. *Striving for educational excellence in the early grades to set the tone for the future.*
6. *Universal Access and use of health care, including regular visits to the doctor.*

Mayor Perez has set up a Cabinet for Young Children and an Office for Young Children – within his Office – that will make sure that all the actions are put into place.

The goal is to prepare our children now, for a better tomorrow. We need to give them the skills to pay the bills – and provide their children with an even stronger start in life!

***Mayor Eddie Perez*** *(right) stands with* ***Superintendent Robert Henry*** *(left), and* ***Chris Hall of Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*** *as they share a song with students at* ***Mt. Olive Child Development Center.***

## THE MAYOR'S UPDATE *(continued from cover)*

And what's summer without fun programs to keep you and your family busy! Everything from youth basketball leagues, to free tennis lessons, as well as swimming and arts and crafts opportunities are available. The City of Hartford Recreational and Youth Services Division can provide all the information you need. You can give them a call at (860) 543-8875, drop by the 3rd floor of 2 Holcomb Street, or check out hartford.gov on the web.

While we will continue to face challenges, people still look at Hartford as a great place to do business and to have fun. The new Connecticut Convention Center is now open, schools are being built in several neighborhoods, and I have seen first hand from the North End to Behind the Rocks – how housing is happening in Hartford. As the saying goes, "Ain't no stopping us now!" The construction cranes in every neighborhood are a symbol that the confidence in our future is high. People are showing this confidence everyday by opening their checkbooks and investing in homes, small businesses, and their neighborhoods.

Our biggest investment is our people. I encourage you to take time this summer and rediscover all of Hartford's neighborhoods – our rich history, culture, and diversity. You'll remind yourself why Hartford is so special – and take pride in protecting it and promoting it.

Sincerely,

**Eddie A. Perez**
*Mayor*

*"In every neighborhood, we are building a brighter future for all of our residents. With your help, we are making city government more effective and accountable."*

– EDDIE A. PEREZ, MAYOR