

CITY OF HARTFORD COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

MEETING



AGENDA

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

LIVE STREAMING ON WWW.HPATV.ORG

7:00PM



**2ND REVISED AGENDA
MEETING OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. MAYOR BRONIN, with accompanying resolution confirming the re-appointment of Donna Swarr as the representative of Friends of Colt Park and appointment of Miriam Roane as the representative of Friends of Keney Park to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC).**
- 2. MAYOR BRONIN, with accompanying annual report submitted on behalf of the Advisory Commission on Food Policy for the City of Hartford. This annual report is mandated by City Ordinance and recounts the activities of the commission for 2020.**
- 3. MAYOR BRONIN, with accompanying annual report submitted on behalf of the Planning & Zoning Commission for the City of Hartford. This annual report is mandated by City Ordinance and recounts the activities of the commission for 2020.**
- 4. LABOR, EDUCATION, WORKFORCE AND YOUTH COMMITTEE, Communication on presentation concerning COVID Early Learning Hubs.**

REPORTS

- 5. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, with accompanying resolution confirming the appointment of Jennifer Hockenhull to the position of Chief Financial Officer/Director of the Office of Management, Budget, and Grants.**

FOR ACTION

- 6. Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Appointments of Departments Heads Requirements, Section 850 Residency requirements of the Municipal Code.**
- 7. Substitute Ordinance Amending Article V, Division 5, Section 2-196 of the Hartford Municipal Code.**
- 8. Ordinance amending Section 32-18. to extend the Elderly Tax Relief Program to elderly Hartford homeowners for taxes due on the Grand List of October 1, 2020 and increase slightly the income limits.**
- 9. Ordinance amending Chapter 28, Article X, Section 28-196 of Neighborhood revitalization zone committees of the Municipal Code.**

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

- 10. (COUNCILMAN GALE) (COUNCILMAN SANCHEZ) (COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROSADO) Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 7, Section 392 of the Municipal Code of Hartford to introduce Juneteenth as a city holiday.**
- HEARING DATE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

11. (COUNCILMAN GALE) (COUNCILWOMAN BERMUDEZ) (COUNCILMAN MIGHTOM) Ordinance Amending Chapter 9, Article V, of the Municipal Code of Hartford to Promote Anti-blight in Commercial Storefronts.

HEARING DATE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2021

12. (MAJORITY LEADER CLARKE II) (COUNCILMAN GALE) Ordinance Amending Chapter 17, Article IVa, Section 102, et seq. of the Hartford Municipal Code.

HEARING DATE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2021

RESOLUTIONS

13. (COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROSADO) (COUNCILMAN SANCHEZ) (COUNCILWOMAN ROSSETTI) (COUNCILWOMAN BERMUDEZ) Resolution requesting that the Mayor's office to provide more consistent administrative support dedicated to translation services for Hartford's Puerto Rican, Latin, and Hispanic communities.

14. (COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROSADO) (COUNCILMAN LEBRON) (COUNCILMAN GALE) Resolution requesting that the Court of Common Council create a task force to evaluate the prospects of implementing a UBI pilot program in the City of Hartford.

15. (COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROSADO) (COUNCILMAN SANCHEZ) (COUNCILWOMAN ROSSETTI) (COUNCILMAN LEBRON) (COUNCILWOMAN BERMUDEZ) Resolution requesting that the Court of Common Council calls on representatives from the Hartford Public Library and the Mayor's Office to provide an update on progress of this taxpayer funded initiative and that the city's Office of Community Engagement provide a biannual report to the Court of Common Council on its efforts to engage/inform/educate Hartford's refugee and immigrant families.

16. (COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROSADO) (MAJORITY LEADER CLARKE II) (COUNCILMAN SANCHEZ) (COUNCILWOMAN ROSSETTI) (COUNCILMAN LEBRON) (COUNCILWOMAN BERMUDEZ) Resolution requesting that the Hartford Court of Common Council calls upon United States Senators Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal, the Connecticut Federal delegation, and all of Congress to support the passage of any measure that would lead to D.C. statehood.

17. (COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROSADO) (MAJORITY LEADER CLARKE II) (COUNCILMAN SANCHEZ) (COUNCILWOMAN ROSSETTI) (COUNCILMAN LEBRON) (COUNCILMAN GALE) Resolution requesting that the Court of Common Council calls upon Congressman John Larson to cosponsor the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020 (H.R. 8113) and that the Connecticut Federal delegation, and all of Congress to support the passage of H.R. 8113.

18. (COUNCILMAN GALE) (COUNCILMAN SANCHEZ) (COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROSADO) Resolution requesting that the City of Hartford supports various legislative initiatives which are either pending before the legislature of the State of Connecticut or may be introduced therein during the present legislative session.

19. (COUNCILMAN GALE) (COUNCILMAN SANCHEZ) (COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROSADO) (COUNCILWOMAN BERMUDEZ) (COUNCILMAN MIGHTOM) Resolution requesting that Mac-State Square, LLC and FBE-State Square LLC provide a report on or before March 1, 2021 consistent with its obligation under the tax relief.

**Attest: Noel F. McGregor, Jr.
Town & City Clerk**



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

ITEM# 1 ON AGENDA

February 8, 2021

Honorable Maly D. Rosado, Council President, and
Members of the Court of Common Council
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: Appointments to Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Dear Council President Rosado,

Attached for your consideration is a resolution confirming the re-appointment of Donna Swarr as the representative of Friends of Colt Park and appointment of Miriam Roane as the representative of Friends of Keney Park to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC).

The Commission serves as an advisory body to the Department of Public Works, the City Council, The Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation and to the Mayor on matters pertaining to the use and development of our parks.

Ms. Swarr has served on PRAC since 2011 and has remained an active member of the Commission throughout her tenure. Ms. Roane is a lifelong resident of Hartford and remains active within local organizations and non-profits throughout the City.

Their resumes are attached for your review. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin".

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

**550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone (860) 757-9500
Facsimile (860) 722-6606**

INTRODUCED BY:
Luke A. Bronin, Mayor

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, February 8, 2021

WHEREAS, The Commission shall be an advisory body to the Department of Public Works, The City Council, The Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation and to the Mayor, in matters pertaining to the use and development of our parks, and

WHEREAS, The Commission is composed of twenty-one members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed as members by the Court of Common Council, for a term of three years, and

WHEREAS, The Mayor has re-appointed Donna Swarr and appointed Miriam Roane to the Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council hereby confirms the following appointments:

Donna Swarr (D), 8 Shultas Place Hartford, CT 06114
For a term expiring 2024

Miriam Roane (D), 15 Baltic Street, Hartford CT, 06112
For a term expiring 2024

MIRIAM WHEELER-ROANE
15 BALTIC STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06112
(860) 729-4250 cellular
miriam0308@me.com

EMPLOYMENT

1977 - 2009

Hartford Housing Authority, Hartford, CT
Deputy Director, Director Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
Over 35 years of employment I held various management positions in Public Housing, i.e., directed social service programs, homeownership, skilled trades, extermination, etc. Over this period public housing moved from project based to subsidized integrated housing within the larger community and in my position of Deputy Director I am grateful to have had a part to play in its evolution and transition.

1976 - 1977

"Our Roots" Ethnic History Project, Project Coordinator
This was a two year, federally funded program under HEW's Ethnic Heritage Studies Program. 61 ethnic groups via the Mayor's All Americans Council were invited to record their histories. Also leading the project was the Hartford Public Schools Curriculum Development Department. Groups worked with area colleges, universities and to produce written, oral and pictorial histories of their experience in the City of Hartford. The product was to be integrated into Hartford Public Schools curriculum.

1974-1976

City of Hartford, Property Officer
Property officer duties assigned through the Purchasing Officer of the City of Hartford. Duties related to disposition of the City's real and personal property, including review of leases, sale of surplus property, inventory, appreciation/depreciation forecasting for insurance purposes, etc. The Old Weaver & Bulkeley High Schools and McCook Hospital were repurposed during my tenure.

1972 - 1974

NAACP Civil Rights Project, Binghamton, NY Executive Director

The NAACP Civil Rights Project (CRP) was a legal defense fund geared towards the defense of victims of all types of discrimination, from sex and age, to housing and education. As Executive Director, I had responsibility for overall administration of the Project. This was the only project funded by the National NAACP Office in the country.

1971 - 1972 Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, New York, NY
Administrative Assistant to National Executive Director & Editor
Working for the Markets Development Program, I assisted in program
design and served as editor for the first edition of the
ICBO Minority Business Directory, New York.

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2009-Present Board of Directors Housing Education and Research Center

2000 TRUSTEE BOARD Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford
Chairperson, Dashaway Luncheon for Smart Girls Program (five years)

2000 National Award for Excellence: NAHRO

2001-2004 Board Operation Safe Home/Stowe Village

2015-present Board of Directors The Artists Collective, Inc.
2019 –present, President of the Board

2017-present Board of Directors Friends of Keney Park
2020 Co-chair

2018-present Board of Directors Keney Sustainability Project

EDUCATION

1977-2010 Professional Development Certifications Nan McKay, NAHRO

1996-1997 Trinity College

1994 - 1995 Hartford Graduate Center/Rensselaer Institute

1971 University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
B.S. Political Science/Minor in History

1969 - 1970 JYA: American University of Beirut & Beirut College for Women
Beirut, Lebanon; Political Science and History

INTERNSHIPS

1970 Inner City Exchange, Hartford, CT
Counselor

1969 Inner City Exchange, Hartford, CT
Researcher/Writer Non-College Sources of Student Aid

1968 Gary Neighborhood House, Gary, Indiana
Youth Counselor

Donna S. Swarr

Education

2002-2004 Southern Connecticut State University New Haven, CT
6th Year Diploma – Information Science

1997-1999 Rensselaer Hartford, CT
MBA – Masters of Business Administration

1991-1993 University of Rhode Island Kingston, RI
MLIS – Masters of Library and Information Science

1973-1977 University of Connecticut Storrs, CT
BS – Design and Resource Management

Professional experience

August 2009- 2015 – Glastonbury Public Schools Glastonbury, CT
Library Media Specialist

Design and deliver 6th Information Literacy, Research Skills and Literature Literacy instruction

- Develop Information Literacy curriculum content
- Deliver Information Literacy instruction
- Manage and maintain print and online resources
- Maintain interactive portal pages
- Provide afterschool programming; research support, book club and debate club

August 2007 to June 2009 - Noah Webster MicroSociety Hartford, CT
Library Media Specialist

- Designed integrated library media instruction with science and social studies curriculum
- Instruct Pre-Kindergarten to 6th grade classes
- Manage and maintain the print and online library resources
- Created and maintain library web pages and wiki
- Provide after school programming; Pajamarama Night, Chinese New Year, Battle of the Books, 4th/5th grade, 6th grade and 7th/8th grade book clubs

August 2006 to August 2007 - Hartford Public Schools Hartford, CT
Library Media Coach

- Designed and delivered professional development for library media specialists
- Analysis of district collection
- Weeded and selection of Hartford Public High School collection for NEASC preparation

March 1991 to August 2006 - United Technologies Corp. East Hartford, CT
Business Analyst

- Researched business and technical research
- Created and delivered IT instruction
- Designed information research literacy and intellectual property processes
- Selection and maintenance of information research tools

Professional memberships

ALA, AASL and CASL

Community activities

Docent at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art 2002- 2011
Regional Board Member at the Connecticut Audubon at Glastonbury 2006-2009
City of Hartford's Park and Recreation Advisory Commission 2011- present

Mr. [Name]

Board Member of the Friends of Colt Park 2011- present

[Address]



ITEM# 2 ON AGENDA

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

Report

February 8, 2021

Honorable Maly D. Rosado, Council President, and
Members of the Court of Common Council
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: Advisory Commission on Food Policy Report

Dear Council President Rosado,

Attached for your review is the annual report submitted on behalf of the Advisory Commission on Food Policy for the City of Hartford. This annual report is mandated by City Ordinance and recounts the activities of the commission for 2020.

Please direct any questions about this report to the commission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin".

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone (860) 757-9500
Facsimile (860) 722-6606

city of
HARTFORD
ADVISORY
COMMISSION
on **FOOD POLICY**

annual report and
policy recommendations

2020





CITY OF HARTFORD

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FOOD POLICY

c/o Hartford Food System, 190 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford, CT 06114

Phone: 860.296.9325 Fax: 860.296.8326 Email: hartfordfood@hartfordfood.org

2020 Food Policy Commissioners

Valerie Bryan
Hartford Resident

Mary Cockram
Frog Hollow
Consulting

Angela G.
Colantonio
Urban Alliance

Valentine Doyle
Hartford Resident

Benjamin Dubow
Riverfront Family
Church

Yahaira Escribano
Foodshare

Brunella Ibarrola
Hartford Public
Schools Food and
Child Nutrition
Services

Andrew May
Hartford Resident

Martha Page
(Chair)
Hartford Food
System

Sofia Segura-Pérez
Hispanic Health
Council

Cary Wheaton
Forge City Works

January 27, 2021

The Honorable Luke Bronin
Mayor of the City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Mayor Bronin,

I am pleased to submit this report on behalf of the City of Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy. This Annual Report outlines the progress of the Commission over the past year and our next steps to advance these policies. We trust you will find that the Commission remains committed to our and the City's goal of ensuring that all Hartford residents have permanent access to a safe, affordable, and healthy diet.

The coronavirus pandemic has been described as unprecedented, and it has certainly presented many challenges. However, some of those challenges are the same challenges that many Hartford families have faced in the past: food insecurity, unemployment, low access to fresh food, and more. The pandemic has heightened inequality across the country: while many white, white-collar, and high income people have largely been able to stay home, pay for grocery delivery, and order takeout, many Black, working class, and low income people have had to continue working in-person, risking infection at work or waiting in line for emergency food. These are not new challenges: our food system was built on the labor of low income people and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) to benefit white, high income people. Our policy recommendations seek to address the immediate needs of Hartford residents, but we recognize the collective responsibility we have to build a more equitable society in the wake of the pandemic.

We thank you and your staff for your continued support and consideration as we strive for total food security in the City of Hartford. As always, we encourage you to call on any of us at any time to discuss the state of the City's food system.

Sincerely,

Martha Page

Martha Page
Chair



CITY OF HARTFORD

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FOOD POLICY

2020 Annual Report

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Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy

2020 Annual Report

Introduction

The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy was established by City ordinance in 1991 to implement recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force on Hunger. Continuously operational since then, its purpose is to integrate all City agencies in a common effort to improve the availability of safe and nutritious food at reasonable prices for all Hartford residents, particularly those in need.

The original goals of the Commission are:

1. To eliminate hunger as an obstacle to a happy, healthy and productive life in the City;
2. To ensure that a wide variety of safe and nutritious food is available for City residents;
3. To ensure that access to food is not limited by economic status, location or other factors beyond a resident's control; and
4. To ensure that the price of food in the City remains at a level approximating the level for the state.



Part of a mural at the Grow Hartford garden at the corner of Main and Park Street.

Photo Credit: Hartford Food System

Those goals continue to be relevant today. A recent study by the University of Connecticut found that 33.3% of Hartford residents were food insecure, the highest rate among all Connecticut municipalities based on 2015 survey data from DataHaven (Boehm et al., 2019). Food security is physical and economic access to adequate food at all times; food insecurity is any situation in which a person, family, or population cannot obtain adequate food for any amount of time for any reason. Significant socioeconomic and health disparities, including limited and inconsistent access to affordable, fresh, and healthy foods, persist in Hartford and the Greater Hartford area. Rates of food insecurity are much greater for Black and Latinx families. The median household income in Hartford is \$36,278 compared to the Hartford County median household income of \$75,148; this underscores a major disparity between the urban core and the surrounding towns, which benefit from the government and nonprofit services, as well as cultural and other entertainment experiences in Hartford (Census Bureau American Communities Survey 5-year estimate, 2019). As the ability to access healthy food is linked directly to socioeconomic status, food insecurity and diet-related diseases are entrenched problems for many Hartford residents.

History of the Commission

As one of the oldest food policy councils in the country, the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy (HACFP) has a long history of advocacy to end hunger. The mission and goals have remained the same, but over the years, the Commission has taken on different structures and used different strategies to engage Commissioners, residents, and City officials to achieve its goals. Commission activities have included:

- Using a \$3,000 - \$5,000 annual budget from the City to complete program work such as surveys or community events; the Commission currently does not have an operating budget
- Grocery store price surveys and data collection about hunger and federal nutrition program participation to assess need in the City
- Advocacy to state and national legislators on issues such as welfare reform and child nutrition
- In the 1990's, development of a new bus line to provide direct access to a grocery store just north of the city line
- Advocating for the development of multiple grocery stores over the years, including the Stop & Shop on New Park Avenue, and current efforts to bring a grocery store to the North End
- Convened city leaders and grocery executives to demand that food was priced the same in Hartford as it was in surrounding towns
- Creation and dissolution of working groups as needed to address food policy issues
- Worked with the City Planning and Zoning Commission to permit urban agriculture throughout the city
- Lobbied the City to hire a local vendor to administer the Summer Food Service Program
- Celebrating the work of food activists and school food service programs through community events like the Feeding Hartford Awards (ongoing) and the Golden Muffin Awards (discontinued)
- Encouraging composting at food businesses through informational meetings and advocacy
- Working with a staffperson from the Mayor's office who would attend monthly meetings to report back to the Mayor
- Issuing periodic guides about pandemic policy recommendations and food pantry schedule changes starting in March 2020

The Commission's work has included legislative advocacy at the state and national level, negotiations with large companies, grassroots organizing, and education. Over the years, the Commission has shown adaptability and a willingness to try new strategies to achieve its goals. Many of these strategies are worth revisiting to tackle the complex problems Hartford faces today.

Food Policy Commissioners

There are currently 11 volunteers who serve the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy. Some are individuals who reside in Hartford; others represent nonprofits or city agencies that address food issues in Hartford. They are:

Valerie Bryan, *Hartford resident.*

Mary Cockram, *Frog Hollow Consulting, Hartford resident.*

Angela G. Colantonio, *Urban Alliance.*

Valentine Doyle, *Hartford resident.*

Benjamin Dubow, *Riverfront Family Church, Hartford resident.*

Yahaira Escribano, *Foodshare, Hartford resident.*

Brunella Ibarrola, *Hartford Public Schools Food and Child Nutrition Services.*

Andrew May, *Hartford resident.*

Martha Page (Chair), *Hartford Food System, Hartford resident.*

Sofia Segura-Pérez, *Hispanic Health Council.*

Cary Wheaton, *Forge City Works, Hartford resident.*

Grace Yi of the Office of Sustainability is the commission's liaison in the City. Shana Brierley currently serves as a liaison to the Commission from the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services. Meg Hourigan of Hartford Food System serves as the staffperson for the Commission. In addition to their service on the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy, many commissioners contribute to the food system of Hartford in other ways, such as Andrew May's volunteer work with food pantries; Val Bryan, Andrew, and Mary Cockram's work encouraging residential composting; and Val's volunteer work on school gardens. Commissioners also work at organizations such as Hartford Food System (Martha Page), which operates the North End Farmers' Market and Hartford Mobile Market to expand options for fresh produce throughout the city, among other programs; Foodshare (Yahaira Escribano), which is the regional food bank; and Hartford Public Schools (Brunella Ibarrola), which strives to increase local produce in school meals and maintain school gardens throughout the city.

There are currently 4 vacant seats on the Commission.***

**** The Commission is currently working on revising the membership from 15 to 21 commissioners, but until those changes are finalized, 4 seats are currently vacant. The Commission consists of Hartford residents, city officials, and representatives of food, farm, and health-related organizations such as the Hispanic Health Council and Hartford Food System. The Commission has prioritized increasing the number of Hartford residents and people of color on the Commission. We value diversity in race, economic status, and gender; people who have experienced food insecurity themselves are especially welcome to participate. If you are interested in joining the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy, contact Meg@HartfordFood.org.*

Overview of 2019-2020 HACFP Work

This year, the Commission has continued to work towards greater food security for Hartford residents by bringing together diverse stakeholders including Hartford residents and representatives from various organizations working on food and public health in the City. The group conducts monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of every month from 3:30 to 5:15 pm; since April, the Commission has met virtually using Zoom.

To reach community members, the Commission uses Facebook, Twitter, and a newsletter, all of which grew in audience this year.



285
Follows
(+77%)

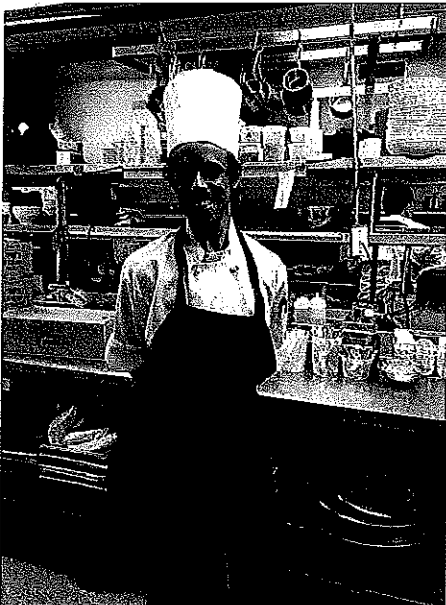


166
Followers
(+44%)



249
Subscribers
(+13%)

Feeding Hartford Awards



Nate Rivera is the individual youth winner of the 2020 Feeding Hartford Awards.

The Commission's annual awards ceremony was rescheduled to a virtual event in September this year. 21 nominees in the categories of adult individual, youth individual, secular non-profit, faith-based organization, business, and government agency were recognized. Winners in each category were presented with a citation from the mayor and an original Hartford-made painting by local artists Julie Bergeron and Christina Solem.

This year's awardees include:

- In the **youth individual** category, Forge City Works alum **Nate Rivera** won this year. As a junior sous chef at Firebox, he was serving more than 2,000 meals per week. He hopes to run his own food truck someday.
- In the **adult individual** category, **Joan Dauber** was this year's winner. Joan founded the first hospital food pantry at Saint Francis hospital over forty years ago. The Joan C. Dauber Food Bank distributed more than 144 tons of food to almost 1,800 households last year.
- In the **secular non-profit** category, **Community Health Services** was this year's winner. Partnering with Foodshare, they offer bi-weekly food bag distributions, amounting to more than 150 bags of food for clients every other Friday.
- In the **business** category, **Banh Meee** was this year's winner. As a local restaurant, Banh Meee trains many youth for their first culinary jobs in Hartford, ensuring employment and quality culinary experiences in Hartford for years to come.

- In the **faith-based** category, **Bible Way Temple Nation** was the winner. Bible Way Temple Nation is a Mobile Foodshare partner in addition to operating CT Transition House, which ensures clients get not only food but also referrals to needed community resources. Their basic needs program serves 400 people per month.
- In the **government agency** category, **Jana Engle of the Connecticut Department of Social Services** was the winner. Jana manages the SNAP Employment and Training Program for the whole state. Working with Foodshare and Connecticut Food Bank, she has distributed over 120,000 packages of food through the programming.

The Commission chose these awardees from an incredible group of nominees this year, including **Sebastian Kolodziej** of **House of Bread**, who was recognized posthumously by the Commission. Other nominees included **Connie Bird**, an urban farmer; **Shonta Browdy** of the **Mount Moriah Community Garden**; **Dr. Susan Masino**, a community gardener; **Mary Lee Morrison**, an urban farm volunteer;

Sarah Rose Nunes, an urban farmer; **Rodger Phillips** of **Sub Edge Farm**; **Tenaya Taylor**, a community advocate with **Summer of Solutions Hartford**; **Pastor Donald Padgett** of the **Promise Zone Board**; **Gillian Walcott** of **Saint Francis Hospital**; **Sister Helen Feagin** of the **Christ Church of Deliverance**; **Father Steve Klots** at **South Kent School**, the **Erdkinder Program** at **Annie Fisher Montessori Magnet School**; and **Blue State Coffee**.

The Commission collected messages of gratitude from the community for people who supported one another during the pandemic. Community members offered gratitude to **Alyssa Jones** of the **Little City Sprouts Program**; **John Randell Martin**; **Emmanuel Rivera**; **Shana Smith** and **Nikki Knowles** of the **Hartford Mobile Market** and **North End Farmers' Market**; **C-Town** on **Wethersfield Ave.**; **Chef Jendayi Scott Miller**; **Shanelle Morris** of **Grow Hartford**; **Mutual Aid Hartford**; **Laverne Frazier**; **Commissioner Andrew May**; the **food and nutrition staff** of **Hartford Public Schools**; and **volunteers** at the **Foodshare Rentschler Field food distribution**. These volunteers and staff worked quickly and tirelessly to get food to people who needed it during this pandemic.



Julie Bergeron painted this portrait of and for Joan Dauber, who won the Feeding Hartford Award in the adult individual category.

Pandemic Guide and Response

1 DE MAYO DE 2020

Escuelas Públicas de Hartford Sirven Comidas

Los niños pueden recibir comidas mientras que las escuelas estén cerradas.

Todas las escuelas en Hartford están cerradas hasta nuevo aviso. Línea Directa de los Servicios de Salud de las Escuelas (860) 695-2760

Cualquier niño, de 18 años o menos, se puede buscar comida en cualquier sitio listado a la derecha. Los padres y los tutores pueden recoger comida para sus niños. Practique el distanciamiento social durante la recogida para la seguridad de todos.

Las comidas se distribuyen los lunes, miércoles y viernes de 9 a.m. a 12 p.m. Los lunes y miércoles, se proporcionarán dos días de comida. Los viernes, se proporcionarán tres días de comida.



Se puede encontrar más información, incluyendo una mapa y posibles cambios de locales en el sitio de web: <http://www.hartfordschools.org/understandingscoronavirus/>

Achievement First (305 Greenfield St.)
Classical Magnet School (85 Woodland St.)
Rawson School (260 Holcomb St.)
Weaver High School (415 Granby St.)
Global Communications Academy (85 Edwards St.)
SAND School (1750 Main St.)
Wish Museum School (350 Barbour St.)
Hartford Public High School (55 Forest St.)
Kennelly School (180 White St.)
Moylan School - ELAMS (101 Catherine St.)
Parkville Community School (47 New Park Ave.)
Sanchez School (176 Babcock St.)
Bellizzi School (215 South St.)
Betances Early Reading School (42 Charter Oak Ave.)
Burr School (400 Wethersfield Ave.)
Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy (53 Vernon St.)
MD Fox School (470 Maple Ave.)

DECEMBER 4, 2020

Foodshare Mobile Stops

Foodshare is distributing food in Hartford.

To get updates about the mobile Foodshare schedule on your cell phone, text FOODSHARE to 85511. Check foodshare.org for updates.

NOTE: This list may be inaccurate. The best way to check on a stop is on Foodshare's webpage or call 860-556-4321.

MONDAYS: 12/7, 12/21 (every other Monday)

- 9 AM - 9:45 AM: Charter Oak Community Health Center, Salvation Army parking lot 225 Washington St.
- 12:35 PM - 1:00 PM: UMC of Hartford 571 Farmington Ave
- 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM: Grace Worship Center Church, 750 Wethersfield Ave

MONDAYS: 12/14, 12/28 (every other Monday)

- 9:45 AM - 10:15 AM: Family Life Education, George Day Park, 46 Orange St.

WEDNESDAYS: 12/16, 12/30 (every other Wednesday)

- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM: Pope Park, 30 Pope Park Dr. across from Arroyo Rec Center
- 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM: Cathedral of St. Joseph, back parking lot 809 Asylum Ave

THURSDAYS: 12/10, 12/24 (every other Thursday)

- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM: North End Senior Center, 85 Coventry St
- 10:30 AM - 11:35 AM: Grace Church of God, 235 Wethersfield Ave
- 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM: SANA Apartments, 1630 Main St

THURSDAYS: 12/17, 12/31 (every other Thursday)

- 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM: New Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, 222 Barbour St
- 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM: Church of the Good Shepherd, 155 Wyllys St

FRIDAYS: 12/11 (every other Friday except Christmas)

- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM: Church of the Most High God, 692 Garden St

FRIDAYS: 12/18 (every other Friday)

- 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM: Salvation Army, 100 Nelson St. corner of Nelson & Barbour. Pre-register 1 day in advance: 860-543-8419
- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM: St. Augustine Church at Webster Theater, 31 Webster St
- 9:45 AM - 10:30 AM: Catholic Charities - Asylum Hill Family Center, 60 Gillett St
- 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM: Bible Way Temple Nation, 3053 Main St

Starting in March, the Commission has been producing regular guides with information about food pantry schedule changes, school meal locations, changes in SNAP and unemployment policies, recommendations for grocery shopping and meeting other needs during the pandemic, and policy recommendations to mitigate the damage of the pandemic. The guide is available in English and Spanish.

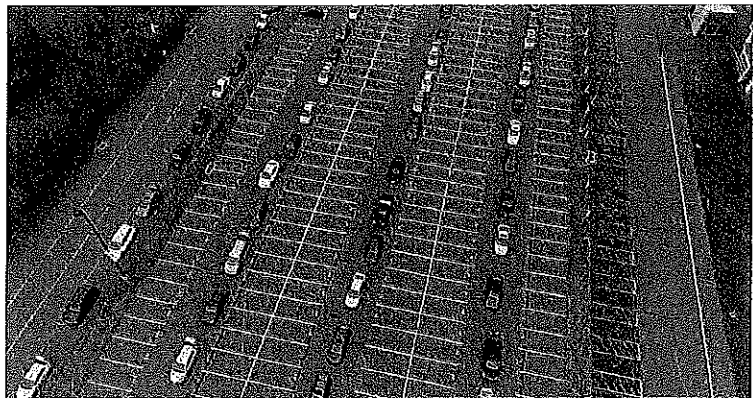
Monthly Commission and working group meetings have served as vital sources of information. Upholding its original charge of uniting city agencies for a common cause of food security, the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy streamlined communication as commissioners and guests shared important program updates, interruptions, and changes with each other and the public.

COVID-19's Impact on Food in Hartford: What We Know So Far

Since March, more than 12,000 (about 10%) Hartford residents have contracted the novel coronavirus; it has taken nearly 250 lives (Connecticut Department of Public Health and CT Data, as of 22 January 2021). These lives, among more than 2 million globally, can never be recovered, nor can their value be calculated (World Health Organization Coronavirus Disease [COVID-19] Dashboard, as of 22 January 2021). They leave behind family and friends who will be collectively processing the grief and trauma of this period for years to come.

Impacts on the economy, education, food supply chain, healthcare system, and other areas of life are easier to calculate, but we won't know the full extent of this ongoing crisis's impact for years. Businesses, particularly restaurants, have shuttered in Hartford and throughout Connecticut. This includes Firebox Restaurant, the farm to table restaurant operated by Forge City Works with a job training mission. Restaurants are a hub of culture and social life in any town. Nationwide, accommodation and food services decreased by 88% (Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce). Closures and reduction in hours and services have led to soaring unemployment rates; 161 per 1,000 Hartford residents filed for unemployment between March 15 and August 2 (CT Data Collaborative). In November, Hartford's unemployment rate was 13.7%, the highest in the state (CT Department of Labor). Throughout Connecticut, more than 500,000 people have applied for unemployment during the pandemic (CT Data Collaborative). Unemployment has not affected everyone equally: in June, the national unemployment rate was 9% compared to 15% for Black workers, 15% for Latino workers, 14% for Asian/Pacific Islander workers, 12% for Native American workers, and 14% for workers of two or more races (US Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics). The federal government estimates Connecticut's economy shrunk by nearly one-third in the first two quarters of 2020 (Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce).

Predictably, enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) increased in Hartford, and first time visits to food pantries rose. Hartford SNAP participants received nearly \$8 million in benefits in November, up about 25% from February (CT Department of Social Services, data on request). At the same time, food distributors worked with food banks and food pantries to redirect surplus food (from restaurants, office cafeterias, and other sources shut down or slowed down by the pandemic). Foodshare reports distributing nearly 750,000 pounds of food through their mobile sites; their partner pantries distributed more than three million pounds of food; and at the Rentschler Field distribution, they have served more than 218,000 families – many of them were first time clients (Foodshare, data on request). Food pantry programs such as the MANNA Community Pantry managed by Hands on Hartford received hundreds of pounds of locally grown produce from Knox and school gardens maintained by Val Bryan and others while schools remained closed. Hartford Public Schools has distributed more than two million meals, quickly adapting to offer takeaway meals at 32 different sites (Hartford Public Schools, data on request).



Cars lined up for Foodshare distribution at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. Photo: WFSB. https://www.wfsb.com/news/foodshare-to-continue-handing-out-food-at-rentschler-field-through-august/article_a8358180-d0b8-11ea-a49d-fb42608e70dc.html



Renicha Roman with Hartford Public Schools Food and Child Nutrition Services distributes milk and other products to Hartford families at Wish School.

Furthermore, Hartford Public Schools purchased over 16 tons of fresh, local produce to give to families alongside meal distribution: the local food included milk from Connecticut dairy farms and produce from Knox Incubator Farmers and the Keney Park Sustainability Project (Hartford Public Schools, data on request).

In addition to the less surprising impacts on employment and food security, the pandemic has had unexpected effects on the local food system. At home and in community gardens, more people are growing their own food: Knox worked with more than 300 community gardeners this year. Community gardens offered safe outdoor space for socializing as neighbors grew food to eat at home and share

with others. Consumer habits showed that people took up new interests in cooking and growing food: many shoppers encountered shortages of flour and yeast as more people baked bread at home; gardeners similarly encountered seed and garden supply shortages as more people tried out gardening for the first time. Farmers' markets across the state saw more customers than in previous years, according to a forthcoming survey from the Connecticut Food System Alliance. This may be because farmers' markets offer open air spaces where it is easier to social distance. Farmers and farmer advocates also worked to increase the visibility of farmers' markets and farmstands in order to sell off product that had been destined for restaurants. Farmers' markets help make communities more resilient against the supply chain disruptions that occurred nationwide.

Lessons Emerging from COVID-19

In all areas of policy, we owe it to more than 400,000 and counting Americans who have died in this pandemic to learn what we can and make the world a better place. The food supply chain in particular exposed its weak points, and longstanding racial and wealth inequality became impossible to ignore as their symptoms exacerbated. The following lessons should inform policy to recover from the pandemic and prevent/prepare for future similar disruptions, whether they are public health crises, disasters related to climate change and extreme weather, or social and political unrest.

- **Adaptability:** While some entities were able to move quickly in response to challenges brought on by the pandemic, others stalled. Regardless, the pandemic has underscored the need for adaptability in government programs, farms, restaurants, grocery stores, and other parts of the food system. For example, at advocates' behest, the USDA offered waivers for various nutrition programs to relax restrictions, reaching more clients. Food distributors scrambled to repackage products for individual and family consumption, some more smoothly than others. Farmers' markets and even individual farms developed online ordering systems. Restaurants created weekly grocery boxes to sell uncooked food, and lobbied the state to be able to include alcohol in food delivery. Governments tested new

approaches such as direct cash relief with minimal means testing. Being able to innovate (and quickly implement those innovations) is vital.

- **Community Power:** Developing mutual aid networks to redistribute money and food, organizing massive (yet socially distant) protests for racial justice, and turning out record voting numbers are just a few of the ways that communities demonstrated power this year. Policy should be driven by residents' concerns and ideas.
- **Equity:** COVID-19, like any crisis, has impacted people of color and low income people more than white people and high income people. Community demand for change was great in spite of and because of the pandemic. Policy should address the roots of racism and wealth inequality; poor areas, rural areas, and more Black, Indigenous, and Latino areas will all need greater resources to recover from the pandemic. Equality has never been an appropriate standard for systems change.
- **Resilience:** The pandemic exposed and exacerbated many issues with our existing systems, laws, and policies. "Rebuilding" after COVID-19 should seek to build back better systems instead of reinstating inadequate, unsustainable, and unjust ones. Whatever the next disruption is, we cannot repeat the devastating impact of COVID-19 due to lack of preparedness or lack of political will.
- **Communication:** Communication between government agencies, different levels of government, community agencies, and communication with the public have been vital during the pandemic. Community agencies have kept one another informed about closures and changes; state agencies sought clear guidance from federal counterparts; the public needs to stay informed about health and safety recommendations. New networks were created in response to the pandemic to de-silo different sectors and agencies to coordinate responses.
- **Diversification:** Businesses, particularly farms, that already had different streams of income or were quickly able to offer different products or services fared better. Diversified farms can be more economically sound as well as environmentally sound.
- **Decentralization:** Groups distributing food aid and grocery stores restocking quickly emptying shelves both faced major bottlenecks. If there were more small-scale distributors and processors throughout Connecticut, local supply chains would flow with less disruption.
- **Aid:** The federal government, intentionally or not, has experimented with public assistance programs during the pandemic; the results of these experiments should inform permanent policy change. These changes included relaxing requirements, reducing paperwork, increasing benefit amounts, and even disbursing direct cash relief with minimal eligibility requirements and means testing. Changes to these programs that increase food security should become permanent. Typically, programs with minimal eligibility requirements and little to no means testing have lower administrative costs than more restrictive counterparts. This country's experience with stimulus checks should inform public assistance programs.

Food Policy Recommendations

The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy presents three policy areas informed by these lessons:

- **Invest in restoring and assisting food businesses, and create new, higher paying jobs.**
- **Address immediate food insecurity through nutrition programs and community programs.**
- **Develop a plan to increase food grown and processed in Hartford.**

The responsibility for these recommendations lies with everyone: City government, state government, federal government, community agencies, private foundations, businesses, consumers, and volunteers all have a role to play. Most of the recommendations have a major fiscal impact; they require shifts in city, state, and federal budgets. Budgets and tax structures must reflect a commitment to community and individual well-being. Unprecedented damage and disruption caused by the pandemic and by climate change must be answered by bold, innovative policy and action by governments, businesses, nonprofits, and individual people.

Policy Recommendation: Invest in restoring and assisting food businesses, and create new, higher paying jobs.

WHAT? Numerous food businesses have been lost to or significantly damaged by the pandemic. Many Hartford residents, primarily people of color, lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The City must invest in restoring and assisting food businesses while creating new, higher paying jobs.

WHY? Food businesses are an integral part of Hartford's economic, social, and cultural recovery. As they are revived, they can create living wage jobs. Better paying jobs will reduce the high turnover and onboarding time in food service; it will also reduce the need for social assistance and accurately reflects the costs of living while doing vital work. Many of the "essential workers" who cannot work from home and instead risk infection by growing and selling food are paid minimum or below-living wage; living wage should be a policy priority.

HOW? Fund small business loans especially for food businesses – prioritize businesses that hire above minimum wage, support opportunities for new food entrepreneurs – particularly women and people of color, create educational opportunities in farming and the culinary arts that end in employment opportunities, implement a living wage, pass equal pay legislation, revitalize the Hartford Regional Market.

The Commission will work with Hartford's delegation at the Connecticut General Assembly to advocate for these programs and policy changes. The City of Hartford can contribute to this rebuilding by offering outreach about relief programs and in its advocacy at the state legislature and in Congress, but this priority should also be reflected in the City budget.

Living wage legislation must be prioritized both to help people recover from the pandemic and to correct long-term structural failures of the market to fully support workers. In the metro Hartford area (Hartford, West Hartford, and East Hartford), the living wage is estimated at \$28.54 per hour for one full time working parent with one child or \$15.64 for a household of two full time working adults and one child (MIT Living Wage Calculator). Any wage increases implemented during the pandemic must continue after the pandemic.

The **Hartford Regional Market** is the largest food distribution center between New York and Boston; it has the potential to be a community and commerce hub similar to the Central New York Regional Market in Syracuse, NY and Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia, PA. The Commission applauds the efforts thus far of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) to improve the market. Even changes to the farmers' market schedule

(Saturdays from 6 am to 9 am), could be made to increase visitors to the market. CRDA should continue to implement the recommendations of the 2018 market study; opportunities for value-added processing, community gardens and community gatherings, and a winter market should be prioritized (Goman + York Advisory Services, 2018).

Small business loans such as the Paycheck Protection Program, Bridge Loans, Debt Relief, and Economic Injury Disaster Loans offered by the US Small Business Administration are a vital part of economic recovery. The City and state government can offer additional support by offering application assistance and raising awareness about the programs, particularly in immigrant communities. The City can also help Hartford food businesses connect with private relief efforts.

Policy Recommendation: Address immediate food insecurity through nutrition programs and community programs.

WHAT? Food pantries, food banks, soup kitchens, school meal programs, mutual aid and community feeding efforts, and federal nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) create a broad patchwork of direct and indirect food aid from private and public sources. Organizations like Foodshare deployed massive new programs, like their distribution at Rentschler Field several days a week for the past several months. Although the goal should be to eliminate the need for emergency feeding programs, continued support for and coordination of nutrition and community programs is necessary.

WHY? Food is a basic human right. Food insecurity has long-term physical and mental health effects. SNAP benefits are calculated based on a draconian “adequate” diet amounting to about \$1.40 per meal (before the pandemic) which relies on often time-consuming scratch cooking that is not always feasible for working families (Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, 7 November 2019).

HOW? Increase maximum benefits in programs like SNAP; implement SNAP and WIC matching programs at farmers’ markets; increase local food purchasing in schools; coordinate distribution of food donations to food banks and food pantries; reduce barriers to nutrition programs.

The Commission applauds Congress for **increasing SNAP benefits** by 15% as part of a recent COVID-19 relief package, amounting to roughly an additional \$30 per month for an average family (Marketplace, 5 January 2021). These temporary increases should continue after the pandemic, because benefits were inadequate prior to the pandemic. SNAP recipients are more likely to participate in the local food economy when farmers’ markets accept, and especially double or increase, SNAP benefits. The City of Hartford should join the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy and other advocates across the state to advocate for a **state-funded fruit and vegetable incentive program**, such as the Massachusetts Healthy Incentive Program (MA HIP) which is funded by state, federal, and private funding. Since it was created in 2017, MA HIP has connected 85,000 families to more than 200 farms, exchanging \$19.5 million in healthy, fresh fruits and vegetables (Massachusetts Food System Collaborative). Programs like this have health benefits for SNAP recipients, and economic benefits for local farmers.

“Local food” was once the majority of our diets, for the majority of history. In recent decades, it has developed a reputation as an expensive luxury, and in Connecticut it is a small portion of our diet – to the detriment of consumers and producers alike. This reputation, as well as the reality is changing, since local food has even made its way into food pantries and onto school lunch trays. The City and Hartford Public Schools should work to reach the Connecticut **Farm to School** Collaborative’s goal of 25% of school food being locally produced by

2032 (Connecticut Farm to School, 2019). The Commission will work with the Collaborative on the development of its Farm to School Action Plan.

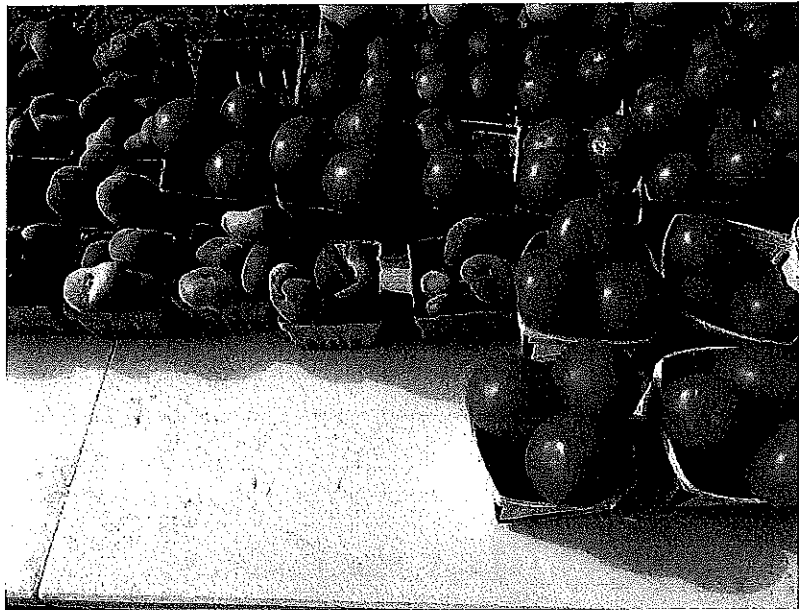
Food banks and pantries have made great strides to streamline and coordinate varying schedules across the state. Food pantries should require minimal paperwork, which can be a deterrent, especially if someone is undocumented. State and city government, as well as community agencies, can work with and encourage new partnerships between food pantries/banks and new sources of food from individual farmers to wholesalers.

Policy Recommendation: Develop a plan to increase food grown and processed in Hartford.

WHAT? Urban farms, community gardens, school gardens, hydroponics and aquaponics, and “edible landscapes” enrich cities with fresh food, jobs, education, youth engagement, volunteer opportunities, increased green space, and more. Value-added food processing similarly enhances the economy and literal and figurative “flavor” of a city.

WHY? Increasing the amount of food grown and produced in Hartford will increase access to fresh, local food and offer and increase the aforementioned opportunities. Having short, local food supply chains will make Hartford less susceptible to national and global supply chain disruptions.

HOW? Work with community gardeners; urban farmers; school garden teachers, volunteers, and students; value-added food processors; consumers; and relevant city agencies to develop targets for food production and processing; identify sites throughout the city for growing and processing food; and identify best practices for encouraging food production and processing.



Connecticut grown tomatoes and peaches at a Hartford farmers' market.

The City of Bridgeport created an **Urban Agriculture Master Plan**, a “community-driven, collective vision” for growing food in the city based on an assessment of the city’s food environment (Green Village Initiative). Hartford took a revolutionary step in support of urban agriculture by permitting it in most city zones in 2015; we can build off this progress by developing recommendations and production targets for food production in the city.

The **Swift Factory** in Hartford’s North End is now home to several value-added food companies, many of which are owned by women and/or people of color. The City can encourage more development that centers Hartford residents and their entrepreneurial skills to produce sauces, snacks, preserves, and other foods for sale throughout the state.

Proposed Structural Changes to the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy

The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy is one of the oldest food policy councils in the country, and carries a legacy of inter-agency, cross-sector collaboration to end food insecurity. The Commission is submitting proposed changes to the founding ordinance in order to update its mission and goals, as well as expand the Commission from 15 to up to 21 commissioners, introduce term limits, and require that 2/3rds of commissioners are Hartford residents. An excerpt about the Commission's new goals is below:

Access to nutritious, culturally relevant, sustainably produced food is a significant factor in health, happiness, cultural celebration, and economic opportunities. Food justice and climate resilience inform the goals of the food policy advisory commission, which are as follows:

- (1) To provide a platform for Hartford residents to have voice and control over the food system of Hartford;
- (2) To advocate for food security for all residents;
- (3) To advocate for access to nutritious and culturally relevant food regardless of economic status, location or other factors beyond a resident's control;
- (4) To advocate for more local production of food including farming, community and school gardens, and food businesses; and
- (5) To advocate for sustainable practices in food retail and distribution, agriculture, and waste management.

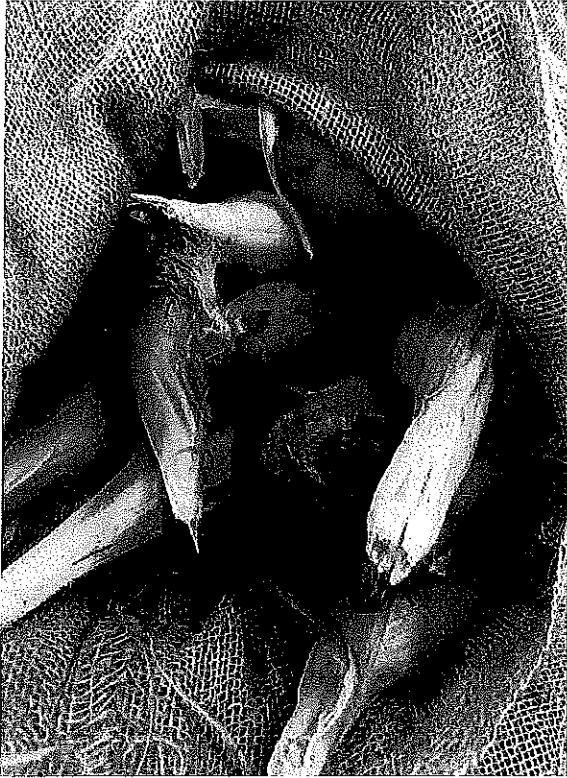
These changes reflect the Commission's more expansive approach to food policy, acknowledging the importance of sustainability and of growing food in Hartford. The Commission will work with the Mayor and City Council to update the ordinance.

Advancing Food Policy During the 2021 Connecticut Legislative Session

The Commission is dedicated to advocating for healthy, sustainable food policy at the city and state level, and will work to promote food policy during the 2021 Connecticut Legislative Session. This strategy will include:

- Working with other city commissions and local partners to host trainings about legislative advocacy
- Tracking bills introduced that are related to food and farms
- Working with the Mayor's office to create shared policy agendas
- Advising the City on policy positions at the state and federal level
- Encouraging constituents to testify on bills and write to their legislators
- Coordinating with other city agencies to advocate at the state and federal level
- Supporting bills using public testimony, letters to Hartford legislators, and media if appropriate
- Coordinating with other food policy councils in the state to identify shared policy goals
- Identifying a policy sub-committee of the Commission to work on the items described above

Conclusions



Hartford-grown corn from Keney Park Sustainability Project.

The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy uses a combination of public awareness, advising city officials, convening local stakeholders, and monitoring state and federal policy change in order to ensure greater food access in Hartford. This year, more than ever, coordination among government and community agencies is vital. The policy recommendations outlined above are the result of this year's collaborations with numerous residents and community organizations. The Commission continues to advocate as it always has for a Hartford with bountiful, affordable, fresh food for all residents; food and farming education for all Hartford residents; and reduced food waste and more sustainable food and farming practices. The pandemic has further emphasized the need for a just, equitable, sustainable food system. Moderate policy change cannot fully address the drastic effects of the pandemic or climate change.

Hartford is a small 17-square mile city of 122,000 people; we must work with others throughout the state for higher impact. To that end, the Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy is working closely with efforts to develop a

statewide food action plan facilitated by the Connecticut Food System Alliance. This plan will include a statewide vision for food access and food grown in Connecticut and represents a public-private partnership to reduce hunger and enhance sustainability in our state. This plan will center food justice, meaning that the people most likely to be harmed by our current food and farm system (particularly people of color) are empowered to shape how we grow, buy, and eat food in Connecticut. It will also emphasize climate resilience, to ensure that Connecticut's food system can withstand changes and disruptions in the national and global food supply chains.

If you would like to be involved with the Commission's efforts to reduce hunger and promote sustainability, please contact Meg@HartfordFood.org.

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Joey Abad, Liany Arroyo, Joe Barber, Julie Bergeron, Angela Bermudez-Millan, Lori DiPietro, Gilma Galdamez, Alice Gold, Chris Goodwin, David Grant, Chavon Hamilton, Meg Hourigan, Amber Hromi-Fiedler, Aedra Jones, Shubhada Kambli, Abbie Kelly, Sam King, Nickolle Knowles, Nicole Lawton, Kathleen Maldonado, Gina Muslim, Jim Palma, Bill Seedman, Jaime Smith, Shana Smith, Kate Quigley, Herb Virgo, Gillian Walcott, Erin Windham, and Grace Yi.

The Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy would like to thank the following organizations for their services to the Commission and their contributions to this report:

Bridgeport Food Policy Council, Center for Latino Progress, Community Solutions, Connecticut Department of Social Services, FoodCorps, Foodshare, Forge City Works, Green Village Initiative, Hispanic Health Council, Hands on Hartford, Hartford Food System, the City of Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission, the City of Hartford Office of the Mayor, the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, the Hartford Public Library, Hartford Public Schools Food and Child Nutrition Services, the Hartford School Garden Council, Keney Park Sustainability Project, KNOX, Lawson Valentine Foundation, the Office of the Mayor of Hartford, Trinity College, United Way, University of Connecticut, and Urban Alliance.

We honor the memory of Sebastian Kolodziej, chef at House of Bread, for his many years directly fighting hunger.

We honor the memory of Joanne Bauer, a fierce advocate of social justice and sustainability.

We honor the victims of the coronavirus pandemic through advocacy.



City of Hartford
Advisory Commission on Food Policy
Annual Report and Recommendations

2020

Prepared for the City of Hartford by:

HARTFORD 
FOOD SYSTEM

Hartford Food System
190 Wethersfield Ave.
Hartford, CT 06114



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

ITEM# 3 ON AGENDA

Report

February 8, 2021

Honorable Maly D. Rosado, Council President, and
Members of the Court of Common Council
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: Planning & Zoning Commission Report

Dear Council President Rosado,

Attached for your review is the annual report submitted on behalf of the Planning & Zoning Commission for the City of Hartford. This annual report is mandated by City Ordinance and recounts the activities of the commission for 2020.

Please direct any questions about this report to the commission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin".

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone (860) 757-9500
Facsimile (860) 722-6606



PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Year-End Report

December 31, 2020

In 2020, the Planning & Zoning Commission continued to engage several hundred more people in the City Plan (POCD) process, adopting the plan unanimously this spring. The pace of construction and permits pulled increased. During the pandemic, thanks to dedicated staff, the commission was the first zoning commission in the state to have web-based meetings up and running which ensured that business continued. Additionally, the commission was one of the first in the state to adapt flexible outdoor seating regulations for small businesses to create more outdoor seating, giving many the ability to survive through the summer. Public participation for the web-based meetings increased which suggests that this format may be a promising mode of conducting future business. Revisions were made to the zoning code, in part to address public health issues and small business viability affected by the pandemic, and many other Connecticut towns replicated our work.

Interesting projects are happening all over the city, as further described below. Close to half of the Commission's membership turned over this year, and we were pleased to welcome 3 attorneys, each exemplifying a strong commitment to public service and each more than satisfying the stringent professional requirements required by City charter. Staffing levels have stabilized, and we continue to see progress in the professionalism of the administration of the code. It remains our privilege and pleasure to serve the City of Hartford.

A. COMMISSION GOVERNANCE

- Said goodbye to Commission Chair Sara Bronin, regular Commission member Melvyn Colón, alternate member Kevin Henry and planner Elizabeth Sanderson
- Welcomed Commission members as new or in new roles: Jonathan Harding transitioned to regular member, Kel Thomas as a regular member, and Andrés Jiménez-Franck and Juliana Garcia-Urbe as alternate members
- Elected Josye Utick, Aaron Gill and Gary Bazzano to serve as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary respectively
- Welcomed a new Commission Counsel, Rich Vasallo, new senior planners Paul Ashworth and Autumn Florek, and new staff member Paige Berschet

B. SUBSTANTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed edits to the zoning regulations to advance innovation or flexibility in the areas of (among others):
 - Bike plan
 - Public health issues
 - Signage in DT districts
 - Small business viability affected by the pandemic
 - Outdoor dining

- Approved various public hearing (special permit) applications, including those related to:
 - Signage for Dunkin Donuts Stadium
 - Site plan review for improvements to Colt Park
 - Signage for Parkville Market
 - Site plan review for a new elementary school at Swift Factory
 - Signage for People's United at Goodwin Square Building
 - Site plan review for a new academic building at University of Hartford
 - New location for Grace Academy at Central Baptist Church of Hartford
 - Renovations for the Pump House at Bushnell Park
 - Re-division of land at Bow Tie Cinema on New Park Ave to allow for future mixed-use and commercial building development
 - Continuation of the Metropolitan District Commission's sewer project (in several locations)
 - Complete Streets Plan
- Reviewed a total of 34 zoning applications (special permits, site plan reviews, municipal improvements, subdivisions) and 3 wetlands applications
- Reviewed/endorsed the department's Community Input Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), a document which outlines a clear and transparent review process for members of the public to provide input for development applications.
- Wrote/endorsed letters for the following:
 - GoRail's project commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Staggers Act
 - Regional Plan Association's campaign the state's Congressional leaders to approve federal aid for transit operations (Emergency Campaign to Save Public Transit)
- Added 1 more award to the 10 awards already received since 2016 for planning, economic development, and sustainability: national Form-Based Codes Institute/Smart Growth America Driehaus Award for 2020.
- And most importantly, completed the process of creating a new City Plan:
 - In 2020 alone, 14 meetings conducted with a total of 288 people attending
 - Either, specific meetings were conducted with the following entities:
 - Complete Streets Working Group
 - City Arts Commission
 - CREC Leadership
 - University of Hartford Design Studio
 - Youth Service Corps
 - State DAS Leadership
 - Hartford Public Schools Leadership
 - Arts Organization Leadership
 - City Council Leadership
 - Or, the following City Plan topics were covered with the public at large meetings:
 - Green400
 - Play400
 - Live400
 - Move400
 - Grow400

C. CHAIR/VICE CHAIR OUTREACH

- Liaised with various City departments, Commissions, and working groups
- Liaised with various third parties, including private property owners, real estate developers, community organizations, and nonprofit organizations
- Presented Hartford's zoning code or sustainability efforts at academic, professional and community forums, including for/at: New Haven Safe Streets Coalition, to the FBCI (Form-Based Code Institute), DesegregateCT, LiveGreenCT, and UCONN Department of Landscape Architecture.

Court of Common Council

ON AGENDA



CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

Maly D. Rosado, Council President
Nick Lebron, Councilman
James Sanchez, Councilman
Wildaliz Bermudez, Councilwoman
John Q. Gale, Councilman

Thomas J. Clarke II, Majority Leader
Marylin E. Rossetti, Councilwoman
Shirley Surgeon, Councilwoman
Joshua Michtom, Councilman

Noel F. McGregor, Jr, Town and City Clerk

Labor, Education, Workforce & Youth Committee

Wednesday January 20th, 2021

6:00pm, Council Chambers

Streamed Liv via [www.https://HPATV.org/channel96](https://HPATV.org/channel96) for Comcast/Frontier Customers and Facebook Live

Report

January 20th, 2021

Honorable Maly Rosado, Council President
City of Hartford
550 Main St.
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Members of the Court of Common Council:

The Labor, Education, Workforce and Youth Committee of the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford met virtually on January 20th, 2021 at 6:00pm (Streamed Live via [www.https://HPATV.org/channel96](https://HPATV.org/channel96) Comcast/Frontier Customers and Facebook Live). Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.

Present were Nick Lebron Chair, Committee Member James Sanchez, Councilwoman Marilyn E. Rossetti, Councilman John Gale, Director of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation, Kim Oliver

1. Item #1 COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPT OF FAMILIES, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND RECREATION DIRECTOR KIM OLIVER

Presenting on COVID Early Learning Hubs.

Discussion:

Director Oliver gave a PowerPoint on the learning hub. This came out of the concept of keeping children safe and keeping parents working. This initiative started in August. This program is for K- grade 2.

All the money that was requested for Harford foundation was received. With this funding they were able to get the PPE that they needed, and a Public Health nurse that would be designated to the program and Digital Support. United Way and Nutmeg foundation helped with additional meal support. The PowerPoint will be available on their website. 7 locations serve 333 children - those location are Boys and Girls Club 104 slots for children, Catholic Charities have availability for 20 children, CRT 103 slots, YMCA 40 children and YWCA 66 children. 50 students are currently in the program. You can also go to Hartford Public school and register there. There are 50 seats for children of teachers. If teachers do not need them the slots will be given to the public.

The demand and the need are greater than what we have. We can also feed the children at the facilities. Word of mouth is getting the information out to parents. And working with principals in the school to get us those parents that really need this program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Councilman Nick Lebron
Chair of Labor, Education, Workforce and Youth Committee

Court of Common Council



CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

Maly D. Rosado, Council President
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John Q. Gale, Councilman
Joshua Michtom, Councilman

Noel F. McGregor, Jr, Town and City Clerk

Report

February 8, 2021

Dear Members of the Court of Common Council:

The Committee of the Whole held a meeting on January 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The committee meeting was held to discuss the following referred item, as reflected on the meeting agenda.

Item # 2

MAYOR BRONIN, with accompanying resolution confirming the appointment of Jennifer Hockenhull to the position of Chief Financial Officer/Director of the Office of Management, Budget, and Grants. **(Item #3 on the 01.11.2021 Agenda)**

The following were present: Committee Chair Council President Maly D. Rosado, Majority Leader Thomas J. Clarke II, Councilwoman Shirley Surgeon, Councilman John Gale, Councilman Nick Lebron, Councilwoman Marilyn Rossetti, Councilman James Sanchez, Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez, Jennifer Hockenhull, Howard Rifkin, Zachary Alexander, David Maloney, Eric Swanson, Rep. Edwin Vargas, David Grant, members of the community, and other support staff.

The COW meeting was called to order at 7:15pm

Discussion: Council President gave a brief overview of the resolution then introduced the Mayor's nominee for Chief Financial Officer and Director of the Office of Management,

Budget, and Grants Jennifer Hockenull. Jen then proceeded to talk about her experience. Council members asked questions concerning her knowledge and previous positions and were satisfied with the answers given.

A motion was made by Councilman James Sanchez to send the item back to council with a favorable recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Gale. The vote proceeded as follows.

COW Vote Taken, (8-0. 1 Absent. 0 Recused: Pass)

Council President Maly D. Rosado: Yes
Majority Leader Thomas J. Clarke II: Yes
Councilwoman James Sanchez: Yes
Councilwoman Marilyn Rossetti: Yes
Councilman Nick Lebron: Yes
Councilwoman Shirley Surgeon: Yes
Councilman John Q. Gale: Yes
Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez: Yes
Councilman Joshua Michtom: Absent

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Council President, Maly D. Rosado
Chair of the Committee of the Whole



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

January 11, 2021

Honorable Maly D. Rosado, Council President, and
Members of the Court of Common Council
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: Appointment for Chief Financial Officer/Director of the Office of Management, Budget, and Grants.

Dear Council President Rosado,

Attached for your consideration is a resolution confirming the appointment of Jennifer Hockenhull to the position of Chief Financial Officer/Director of the Office of Management, Budget, and Grants.

As you know, that role has been unfilled on a permanent basis since Melissa McCaw left to become Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management at the State. I am pleased to say that we have found an outstanding individual to fill that role.

Ms. Hockenhull has more than fifteen years of experience in the public and non-profit sector working in budgeting and finance. She served as Deputy City Controller and then City Controller for South Bend, Indiana for four years, and most recently worked as Controller for Bastyr University in Washington State and then in the private sector at CliftonLarsonAllen, a national accounting firm. She is a graduate of Indiana University South Bend and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Her resume is attached for your review. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin", is written over a horizontal line.

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone (860) 757-9500
Facsimile (860) 722-6606

INTRODUCED BY:
Luke A. Bronin, Mayor

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, January 11, 2021

WHEREAS, Mayor Luke Bronin has nominated Ms. Jennifer Hockenhull for the position of Chief Financial Officer/Director of the Officer of Management, Budget, and Grants, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council hereby confirms the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Hockenhull for the position of Chief Financial Officer/Director of the Officer of Management, Budget, and Grants, effective upon the date of confirmation.

Introduced by: Mayor Luke A. Bronin

HEADING
AND
PURPOSEAN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, SECTION 850 OF THE HARTFORD MUNICIPAL
CODE

COUNCIL,

COURT OF COMMON

CITY OF HARTFORD

March 9, 2020

Be It Ordained by the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford:

That Chapter 2, Section 850, of the Municipal Code of the City of Hartford be amended as follows:

- (A) All council and Mayor appointees and Unclassified Employees employed by the City, shall maintain a continuous residence in the City during the period of such appointment or employment. This section shall not apply to new employees or appointees during the first six (6) months of such employment or appointment. If such individual ceases to be a bona fide resident of the City once the residency has been established or fails to become a bona fide resident within six (6) months of the appointment or employment, the Council shall, by a vote of seven (7) members, send notice to the mayor that pursuant to the provisions of Chapter V, section 3(c) of the Hartford Charter, the office or position of the individual who has failed to remain a bona fide resident of Hartford shall thereupon become vacant, and such appointment or employment shall terminate.

Bona fide resident is defined as:

- (1) An employee who has a Hartford mailing address. A post office address does not qualify as a bona fide Hartford address;
- (2) Be a registered Hartford voter; and
- (3) If the employee owns a motor vehicle, said motor vehicle must be registered in the City of Hartford

- (B) The provisions of subsection (A) above shall not apply to individuals who were employees and appointees at the time of the effective date of this section.

- (C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (A) above, the Mayor, after providing a written justification to the Council, may waive the requirement for bona fide residence in the City of Hartford, provided that (1) such requirement shall never be waived for the positions of Chief Operating Officer, Fire Chief, Chief of Police and Corporation Counsel, and (2) the maximum salary for any employee for whom the residency requirement is waived shall be reduced by ten percent (10%) from that set forth in the applicable pay scale.

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

SUBSTITUTE

Introduced
by:

Councilman Joshua Michtom

HEADING
AND
PURPOSE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 2, ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION 2-860 MOTOR VEHICLE POLICY OF THE HARTFORD MUNICIPAL CODE.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL,
CITY OF HARTFORD

August 10, 2020

Be It Ordained by the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford:

That Chapter 2, Article XVIII, Section 2-860 of the Municipal Code of Hartford shall be amended as follows:

The following ordinance is modified by the addition of underlined material.

Sec. 2-860. - [Motor vehicles policy.]

(A) Use of City Vehicles. It shall be the policy of the City of Hartford that motor vehicles will be provided to only the following City employees on a twenty-four-hour basis, but only if such vehicles are equipped with a global positioning system as detailed in paragraph (D), below. None of the City employees listed below shall be provided with a motor vehicle unless such vehicle is equipped as required by this Section:

- Mayor of the City of Hartford.
- Police Chief of the City of Hartford Police Department.
- Fire Chief of the City of Hartford Fire Department.

(B) No City of Hartford employee shall be provided a motor vehicle of any kind on a twenty-four (24) hour basis unless the Court of Common Council specifically authorizes the use of the motor vehicle in a resolution solely for the purpose of granting authorization for twenty-four (24) hour usage.

(C) The City of Hartford shall determine the taxable benefit of the use of a motor

vehicle owned by the City and shall report said benefit to the appropriate state and federal authorities. The City of Hartford's determination of the taxable benefit shall be a matter of public record.

(D) Every vehicle owned by the City of Hartford shall be equipped with a global positioning system with the capabilities to identify the location of any vehicle and to determine its mileage usage.

(E) Whenever any of the City employees listed above is operating or traveling in a motor vehicle provided on a twenty-four-hour basis and such vehicle is involved in any accident resulting in property damage, including damage to that vehicle, or injury, including injury to occupants of that vehicle, the City employee to whom that vehicle was provided shall, if the incident occurred outside Hartford, report the incident immediately to the local police of the town where the incident occurred, or to the State Police, or to such other law enforcement agency as has jurisdiction in that place, or, if the incident occurred in Hartford, report the incident to the State Police, so an independent investigation can be completed.

(F) Within seven days of the incident described in (E) above, the City employee to whom the vehicle was provided shall notify the Mayor, the Chief Operating Officer, and all members of the Court of Common Council of the incident, via email, including the following information:

- The time, date, and location of the incident;
- The names of everyone who was in the vehicle at the time of the incident;
- Whether anyone was injured and if so, the names of the injured parties and the nature of their injuries, inasmuch as that information is known;
- Whether property was damaged and if so, the names of the property owners and the nature of the damage, inasmuch as that information is known;
- A brief description of the incident;
- The case number or similar record number assigned to the incident by the law enforcement agency that investigated as provided above, or, if the law enforcement agency contacted declined to investigate, the name of the agency and the representative of that agency who indicated to the City employee that there would be no investigation;
- Any documents generated by the responding law enforcement agency with regard to the incident;
- If any criminal charges resulted from the incident, either against the City employee or any other person, the nature of those charges;
- Such other information and / or documents as the City employee deems relevant to explain and detail the incident.

The City employee shall be under a continuing obligation to provide further information concerning the incident to the parties listed above, as soon as that information becomes available.

(G) No vehicle provided to a City employee on a twenty-four-hour basis shall be used for any personal trip to any location more than fifty miles outside the City of Hartford without prior consent of the Mayor or the Chief Operating Officer and prior notice to the Court of Common Council.

(H) Failure to comply with any of the requirements of paragraphs (E) – (G) shall result in the forfeiture of the use of the City vehicle for one year. Such failure of compliance shall be determined by a vote of the majority of the Court of Common Council.

Introduced by: Mayor Luke A. Bronin

ITEM# 8 ON AGENDA

HEADING
AND
PURPOSE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 32 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE
OF HARTFORD

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF HARTFORD

January 11, 2020

Be It Ordained by the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford:

That Chapter 32, Article I, Tax Relief for the Elderly, of the Municipal Code be amended as follows:

Chapter 32 -- TAXATION AND ASSESSMENTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

ARTICLE I. -- IN GENERAL

Sec. 32-18. - Tax relief for the elderly.

(a) Any person who is liable for taxes assessed on real property located in the City, which real property is occupied by such person as his personal residence, whether such person is an owner of the real property or is liable for taxes therein under the provisions of G.S. § 12-48 as a tenant for life or for a term of years, shall be allowed to pay said taxes quarterly without interest or penalty and entitled to tax relief in the form of a tax credit, provided that the:

- (1) Person is sixty-five (65) years of age or over, or his spouse is sixty-five (65) years of age or over and resides with such person, or the person is sixty (60) years of age or over and the surviving spouse of a taxpayer who would have qualified for tax relief under this program at the time of his death;
- (2) Person has been a resident of the City of a period of one (1) year immediately preceding the application for relief;
- (3) Property for which the tax credit is claimed is the legal domicile of such person and is occupied by such person for at least one hundred eighty-three (183) days of each year;
- (4) Person's qualifying income individually, if unmarried, during the calendar year preceding the claim for tax relief, shall not exceed [fifty-two thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$52,850)] fifty-four thousand nine hundred fifty dollars (\$54,950) or jointly, if married, not exceed [sixty thousand four hundred dollars (\$60,400)] (\$62,800).

Qualifying income is defined as adjusted gross income (Internal Revenue Code guidelines) plus tax-exempt interest, dividend exclusions, gifts, bequests, social security benefits, railroad retirement benefits, and income from all other tax-exempt sources, but not including any credits received under this program;

- (5) Person shall have applied for property tax relief under any other existing state benefits programs for which he may be eligible; and
- (6) Person makes application for tax relief afforded under this program biennially with the City Assessor no earlier than February first, nor later than May fifteenth. Person may make application to the City Assessor prior to August fifteenth of the claim year

for an extension of the application period. The City Assessor may grant such extension in the case of extenuating circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as evidenced by a certificate signed by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse to that extent, or if the secretary determines there is good cause for doing so.

- (b) The amount of the tax credit afforded under this program shall be five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for a residential property of three (3) dwelling units or less and one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for a residential property of four (4) dwelling units. In any case where title to such real property is recorded in the names of more than one (1) taxpayer, the amount of credit shall be provided in accordance with the fractional share such eligible owner holds in the property.
- (c) The City Assessor is hereby authorized to implement this program, and to adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper administration of this program. He may designate agents to act in his name in collecting applications for this program.
- (d) The City Assessor shall determine eligibility for tax relief under this program. He shall compute the amount of credit due each qualified taxpayer, make proper record thereof, and inform the City tax collector of his determination.
- (e) If any person entitled to the tax credit afforded under this program dies or sells the real property on which the tax credit is granted, any credit previously allowed shall be disallowed to the extent of the portion of the fiscal year remaining following the date of death or sale of the property, except where such death or sale results in a surviving spouse, otherwise eligible, acquiring the interest formerly held by the taxpayer.
- (f) The tax relief afforded under this program to a taxpayer in no event shall, together with any relief received by such residents under the provisions of G.S. §§ 12-129b to 12-129d inclusive, 12-129h, and 12-170aa, exceed, in the aggregate, seventy-five (75) percent of the tax which would, except for G.S. §§ 12-129b to 12-129d inclusive, 12-129h, and 12-170aa, and this program, be laid against such taxpayer.
- (g) The City hereby waives any right to establish a lien which it may have under the provisions of G.S. § 12-129n(f).
- (h) Affidavits, applications or other documents presented in support of the application for tax relief shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed except in connection with an investigation of fraud or other misrepresentation as to eligibility.
- (i) The total of all credits granted under the provisions of this program shall be limited to ten (10) percent of the total real property tax levied in the City in the preceding fiscal year. If the total of all credits which would be granted except for this section exceeds an amount equal to ten (10) percent of the total real property tax levied in the City in the preceding fiscal year, then each such credit shall be reduced on a pro rata basis so that the total credits equals ten (10) percent of the total real property tax assessed.
- (j) This section shall apply for taxes due on the list of October 1, [2019] 2020, only.

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

(Code 1977, § 31-19; Ord. No. 10-83, §§ A—J, 3-14-83; Ord. No. 4-84, 2-14-84; Ord. No. 1-85, 1-16-85; Ord. No. 2-85, 1-16-85; Ord. No. 38-86, 11-24-86; Ord. No. 2-88, 1-11-88; Ord. No. 38-88, 6-27-88; Ord. No. 4-89, 2-14-89; Ord. No. 6-90, 3-12-90; Ord. No. 25-90, 6-11-90; Ord.

No. 3-91, 1-28-91; Ord. No. 1-92, 1-13-92; Ord. No. 45-92, 12-14-92; Ord. No. 15-94, 2-28-94; Ord. No. 1-95, 1-23-95; Ord. No. 3-96, 1-22-96; Ord. No. 61-96, 12-16-96; Ord. No. 2-98, 1-12-98; Ord. No. 1-99, 1-11-99; Ord. No. 1-00, 1-24-00; Ord. No. 1-01, 1-25-01; Ord. No. 2-02, 1-14-02; Ord. No. 63-02, 1-13-03; Ord. No. 01-04, 1-12-04; Ord. No. 20-04, 12-13-04; Ord. No. 01-06, 1-9-06; Ord. No. 01-08, 1-14-08; Ord. No. 03-09, 2-9-09; Ord. No. 01-10, 1-11-10; Ord. No. 01-11, 1-10-11; Ord. No. 05-12, 4-9-12; Ord. No. 02-13, 2-25-13; Ord. No. 02-14, 3-24-14; Ord. No. 04-15, 3-23-15; Ord. No. 05-16, 5-23-16; Ord. No. 13-17, 3-27-17; Ord. No. 02-18, 4-9-18)



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

January 11, 2021

Honorable Maly D. Rosado, Council President, and
Members of the Court of Common Council
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: Expanding the Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and Maple Avenue Revitalization Group

Dear Council President Rosado,

Attached for your consideration, please find a proposed ordinance amending Article X, Section 28-196 of the Municipal Code, which would eliminate the inactive South Green Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, and a proposed resolution amending the boundaries of the Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and Maple Avenue Revitalization Group.

The revised boundaries were approved by the NRZs, and this change is at their request. It will be reflected in their by-laws and strategic plans upon their next update.

The Department of Development Services is happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin", is written over a horizontal line.

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

INTRODUCED BY:
Luke A. Bronin, Mayor

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, January 11, 2021

WHEREAS, Due to years of inactivity, there is a desire to eliminate the South Green Neighborhood Revitalization Zone by amending Article X, Section 28-196 of the municipal code, and

WHEREAS, Hartford Next has worked with former representatives of South Green Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, and the boards representing the Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and Maple Avenue Revitalization Group to reduce the number of unrepresented residents as a result of the elimination of the South Green Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, and

WHEREAS, The board of directors for the Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and Maple Avenue Revitalization Group have issued letters approving the expansion of their boundaries to represent portions of the former South Green Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, and

WHEREAS, The Director of Planning has issued a memorandum supporting the proposed boundary expansions of Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and Maple Avenue Revitalization Group, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Hartford Court of Common Council hereby approves the expanded boundaries of the Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and Maple Avenue Revitalization Group, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and Maple Avenue Revitalization Group shall update their by-laws to reflect the expanded boundaries in a timely manner, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and Maple Avenue Revitalization Group shall include the expanded boundaries when developing subsequent strategic plan updates, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the City shall cause all city maps to be updated to reflect the new boundaries of the Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and Maple Avenue Revitalization Group.

Introduced by: Mayor, Luke Bronin

HEADING
AND
PURPOSE

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE de NEIGHBORHOOD
REVITALIZATION ZONES**

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL,
CITY OF HARTFORD

January 11, 2021

Be It Ordained by the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford:

That Section 28-196 of Article X of Chapter 28 of the Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE X. NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Sec. 28-196. Neighborhood revitalization zone committees.

There are hereby created, pursuant to G.S. § 7-600 the following neighborhood revitalization zone committees. The membership of each committee shall comply with the requirements of G.S. § 7-600 and their by-laws, as adopted and as hereafter may be properly amended. Such membership shall reflect the composition of the neighborhood revitalization zones and shall include, but not be limited to, tenants, property owners, community organizations, institutions and businesses. A majority of the members shall be residents of the neighborhood. Each neighborhood revitalization committee shall exercise, in accordance with G.S. § 7-600 et seq. and as may be amended, all of the powers and duties conferred by state law on such neighborhood revitalization zone committee.

The revitalization zone committees are: Parkville Revitalization Association, Asylum Hill Revitalization and Problem Solving Committee, ~~South Green Revitalization Zone Committee~~, the Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood, Maple Avenue Revitalization Group, Northeast Revitalization Association, Southend Neighborhood Revitalization Association, Upper Albany Revitalization Zone Organization, Clay Arsenal Revitalization Association, West End Civic Association Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, Blue Hills Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, South Downtown Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, Frog Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, and Southwest/Behind the Rocks Neighborhood Revitalization Zone. The Court of Common Council hereby approves the strategic plans filed with the city clerk by these committees on the following dates. These plans will serve as a guide for city and neighborhood actions.

Asylum Hill NRZ: December 20, 2009, amending plan filed November 15, 1999
Parkville NRZ: December 28, 2010, amending plan filed November 15, 1999
~~South Green NRZ: December 3, 1999~~
Sheldon/Charter Oak NRZ: January 18, 2008, amending plan filed March 28, 2000
Maple Avenue Revitalization Group: September 10, 2012, amending plan filed July 5, 2001
Northeast Revitalization Association: August 29, 2001
Southend Neighborhood Revitalization Association: August 29, 2001
Upper Albany Revitalization Zone Organization: October 3, 2001
Clay Arsenal Revitalization Association: October 3, 2001
West End Civic Association NRZ: September 10, 2012, amending plan filed January 14, 2002
Blue Hills NRZ: April 17, 2002
South Downtown NRZ: May 22, 2002
North Frog Hollow NRZ: ~~February 5, 2003~~
~~Frog Hollow South NRZ: April 9, 2003~~
Frog Hollow NRZ: April 6, 2011
Southwest/Behind the Rocks NRZ: August 13, 2018,

Each neighborhood revitalization zone committee shall submit a report on implementation of their strategic plan to the Mayor, Hartford Court of Common Council, and the Secretary of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management at intervals of six (6) months in the first year after adoption of this section and annually thereafter. Such report shall include any revisions that do not materially change the adopted strategic plan.

Each neighborhood revitalization zone committee shall adopt by-laws which shall include, at a minimum, the following provisions:

Members. Membership shall include representation of tenants, property owners, businesses and community organizations in accordance with G.S. § 7-600 et seq. A majority of members must reside within the boundaries of the neighborhood revitalization zone. The Mayor will appoint a representative who shall be a full member of the committee.

Meetings. An annual meeting shall be held to elect the members of the neighborhood revitalization zone committee. The time and place of all regular meetings for a calendar year shall be filed with the city clerk no later than January 31 of the calendar year and notice shall be published in a newspaper in general circulation as stated in G.S. § 7-600 et seq. The City will pay for reasonable costs of publishing such notice. Any committee member, except for the Mayor's representative, who is absent from three (3) regular meetings in one (1) calendar year may be replaced in accordance with committee by-laws. All meetings shall be held within the boundaries of the neighborhood revitalization zone or in city hall. The City shall provide space in a municipal facility for neighborhood revitalization zone meetings if requested by the neighborhood revitalization zone committee. All neighborhood revitalization zone committee meetings shall be open to the public.

Minutes and notices of meetings. Each neighborhood revitalization zone committee shall appoint or elect a secretary who shall be responsible for maintaining written records for the neighborhood

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revitalization zone committee. The secretary shall be responsible for keeping minutes of every neighborhood revitalization zone committee meeting and delivering notices for every meeting. Once approved by the neighborhood revitalization zone committee, minutes shall be filed with the city clerk. The minutes shall include a tabulation of those committee members present as well as those who were absent. A meeting notice and agenda for each regular meeting shall be delivered or mailed to each committee member at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting. Notice of a special meeting shall be filed with the city clerk and delivered to the residence of every committee member at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the commencement of the special meeting.

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

Attest:

Introduced
by:

Councilman John Q. Gale
Councilman James Sanchez
Councilwoman Maly D. Rosado

HEADING
AND
PURPOSE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI, DIVISION 7,
SECTION 392 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF HARTFORD TO
INTRODUCE JUNETEENTH AS A CITY HOLIDAY.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL,
CITY OF HARTFORD

February 8, 2021

Be It Ordained by the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford:

That Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 7, Section 2-392, of the Municipal Code of the City of Hartford be amended as follows:

Sec. 2-392. - Holidays.

(A) *General.* The following days shall be recognized and observed as paid holidays for all full-time Classified or Unclassified Employees:

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Day

[Lincoln's Birthday]

Presidents' Day

Good Friday

Memorial Day

Juneteenth

Independence Day

Labor Day

Columbus Day

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

Whenever the holidays listed above fall on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be observed as the holiday; and whenever the holidays listed above fall on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be observed as the holiday.

(B) *Requirements.*

- (1) Each employee shall receive one (1) day's pay for each of the holidays listed above on which he/she performs no work provided the employee is paid the day before and the day after the holiday unless excused in advance.
- (2) When a holiday falls on an employee's regular day off, he/she shall receive a compensatory day off to be scheduled with the approval of the Appointing Authority with forty-eight (48) hours notice.
- (3) It is the intent of this rule that employees who work irregular schedules shall receive the same holiday benefits as employees who work a regular Monday through Friday schedule.

(C) *Discretionary Holiday.* The Mayor may authorize a day off for all Classified and Unclassified Employees the day before a holiday falling on Tuesday or the day following a holiday on Thursday. All who are required to work on such days shall be granted time off in lieu thereof. Employees who have such a day(s) as a regular day off shall be granted a substitute day.

(Ord. No. 07-05, 8-8-05)

Introduced
by:

Councilman John Q. Gale
Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez
Councilman Joshua Michtom

HEADING
AND
PURPOSE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9, ARTICLE V, OF THE
MUNICIPAL CODE OF HARTFORD TO PROMOTE ANTI-BLIGHT IN
COMMERCIAL STOREFRONTS.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL,
CITY OF HARTFORD

February 8, 2021

Be It Ordained by the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford:

ARTICLE V. - ANTI-BLIGHT AND PROPERTY-MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 9-90. - Title.

This article and the regulations contained herein are to be known as the "Anti-Blight and Property-Maintenance Program," hereinafter referred to as "this article," and is enacted and authorized pursuant to G.S. § 7-148(c)(7)(H)(xv) and § 7-148(c)(7)(A)(II).

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17)

Sec. 9-91. - Reserved.

Sec. 9-91A. - Declaration of policy.

There exists within the City of Hartford a large number of properties which are vacant or in blighted condition. The existence of vacant and blighted properties contributes to the overall decline of the City and its neighborhoods, which, in turn, affects the health, safety, welfare and economic well-being of Hartford's residents. Many of the vacant and blighted properties can be rehabilitated, reconstructed, demolished, and/or reused so as to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing and

commercial facilities. Such rehabilitation, reconstruction, demolition, and/or reuse will eliminate, remedy, and prevent the adverse conditions described above while increasing revenue to the City of Hartford.

It is further found that there are many instances where property maintenance of real properties in the City of Hartford is deficient or lacking leading to a progressive deterioration of such properties and the creation of blighted conditions. Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Hartford that the City set minimum standards for property maintenance so as to assure that properties within the city be maintained in conformity with such standards and so as to assure that none of these structures and properties will deteriorate and adversely affect their surrounding neighborhoods.

It is found and declared that by reason of lack of maintenance and progressive deterioration, certain structures and properties have the further effect of creating blighted conditions and initiating slums, and that if the same are not curtailed and removed, the aforesaid conditions will grow and spread and will necessitate in time the expenditures of large amounts of public funds to correct and eliminate the same. By reason of timely regulations and restrictions, as herein contained, the growth of blight may be prevented and neighborhood and property values may thereby be maintained, the desirability and amenities of residential and nonresidential uses and neighborhoods enhanced, and the public health, safety, and welfare protected and fostered.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17; Ord. No. 05-18 , 7-9-18)

Sec. 9-92. - Prohibition on creating or maintaining blight violations or property-maintenance violations.

No person, firm, or corporation, including any owner of real property in the City of Hartford, shall cause or allow, any such real property or premises to exist or be created or maintained in a manner that constitutes a blight violation or a property-maintenance violation as defined in this article.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17)

Sec. 9-93. - Applicability of article; exemptions; severability.

(a) It is unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, or any owner of real property in the City of Hartford to be in conflict with or in violation of any of the provisions of this article.

(b) Any building or structure undergoing remodeling, restoration, repair, or renovation under a current building permit, provided that any violations of this article will be corrected thereby and that the building official determines that the work is proceeding in a reasonably expeditious timeframe, is exempt from this article. Repairs, additions, or alterations to a structure, or changes of occupancy, shall be done in accordance with all other applicable ordinances and laws. Nothing in this article shall be construed to cancel, modify, or set aside any provisions of the Hartford Zoning Regulations or the Building Code, as may be amended from time to time.

(c) [This article applies to only vacant, unoccupied real property during the first year after it is adopted, or until March 31, 2018, whichever is earlier.]

[(d)] If any provision of this article or the application thereof to any real property or any person, firm, corporation, or owner of real property is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or application of this article which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this article are declared to be severable.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17)

Sec. 9-93A. - Blight violations.

The following conditions existing on any real property within the city constitute blight violations under this article:

(1) It is becoming dilapidated as determined by the Department of Development Services through inspections showing that two (2) or more property-maintenance violations exist on the real property. When two (2) or more property-maintenance violations exist on real property, each property-maintenance violation shall be treated as a separate blight violation; or

(2) It is determined by the building official or by health department reports that existing conditions pose a serious or immediate danger to the community that is life-threatening or poses a health or safety risk to the public; or

(3) It is attracting illegal activity as documented in police department reports; or

(4) It is a fire hazard as determined by the fire marshal, or as documented in fire department reports; or

(5) It constitutes a health or sanitary problem, as determined by the Director of Health and Human Services, or any designee(s) thereof; or

(6) It contains unauthorized storage or accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish, litter, or refuse of any kind; the parking of inoperable vehicles (unless otherwise licensed to do so); or the presence of any inoperable machinery and equipment; or

(7) It is a factor creating a substantial and unreasonable interference with the lawful use and enjoyment of other space within the building, or of other premises, as documented by complaints or cancellation of insurance on nearby properties; or

(8) Extended vacancy of a dwelling, dwelling unit, or multiple-dwelling property, or commercial, commercial storefront or industrial property that has remained continuously vacant for not less than one hundred twenty (120) days.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17)

Sec. 9-93B. - Property-maintenance violations.

The following conditions existing on any real property within the City of Hartford constitute property-maintenance violations under this article. The existence of two (2) or more property-maintenance violations is a blight violation, and each property-maintenance violation will be enforced as a separate blight violation when two (2) or more exist on real property.

(1) Property-maintenance violation means a violation of the following standards with respect to lots or parcels:

(a) Grading. All premises shall be graded, drained, and maintained to prevent the erosion of soil and to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water thereon. Drainage systems shall divert water away from the property and away from adjacent property lines. All drainage systems should discharge towards the public right-of-way. Approved stormwater management systems are exempt from this section.

(b) Shopping Baskets, Carts, and Wagons. No shopping baskets, carts, or wagons shall be left unattended or standing, and the baskets, carts, or wagons shall be collected as often as necessary and removed to an appropriate enclosure intended for such purpose or to the interior of the building or buildings from which they were taken.

(c) Fences. All fences shall be maintained. Such maintenance shall include, but is not limited to, painting as needed, removal or covering of graffiti, and the replacement or repair of fences, which may become in disrepair.

(d) Weeds and Plant Growth. All landscaping shall be maintained so that lawns, hedges, bushes, and trees are kept neatly and free from becoming overgrown and unsightly where exposed to public view and where the same may have a tendency to depreciate adjoining property. The maintenance shall include, but is not limited to, the replacement of trees and shrubs, which may die or otherwise be destroyed. Grass, weeds, or similar plant growth shall not reach a height greater than one (1) foot on any premises, including on the planting strip fronting the premises. Front yards shall not be allowed to deteriorate into unattended bare, dirt patches.

(e) Walks and Driveways. Steps, walks, driveways, parking spaces, and similar paved areas shall be maintained to afford safe passage under normal use and weather conditions. Any holes or other hazards that may exist shall be filled and necessary repairs or replacement accomplished. All off-street parking facilities shall be swept and maintained free of debris.

(f) Rodent Infestation. Yards, courts, and vacant lots shall be kept clean and free of rodent infestations.

(g) Physical Hazards and Garbage. Yards, courts, and vacant lots shall be kept clean and free of physical hazards and shall be maintained in a manner that will prevent accumulation of trash, garbage, litter, debris, waste, rubbish, and similar materials. The owner of the property shall maintain the premises litter-free.

(h) Inoperable Appliances. The owner of the property shall maintain the premises free of discarded or inoperative appliances, furnishings, or machinery.

(i) Signs. All signs exposed to the public view shall be maintained in sound condition. Excessively weathered or faded signs shall be removed or restored to sound condition. A non-operative or broken electrical or other sign shall be repaired or removed.

(j) Trash Receptacles. Trash receptacles shall be emptied on a regular basis.

(k) Cigarette Disposal. All places of business that serve food or drink to patrons (e.g., restaurants, cafes, bars) shall maintain receptacle(s) for the

disposal of cigarettes on their premises and shall empty the receptacle(s) on a regular basis.

(2) Property-maintenance violations also mean the violation of the following standards with respect to all buildings and structures on real property:

(a) *Exterior Surfaces.* All exterior surfaces, including but not limited to doors, door and window frames, cornices, porches, trim, balconies, decks, fences, decorative features, and overhang extensions shall be maintained so that they are not dilapidated or decaying, not open to the elements, and free of graffiti. Exterior wood surfaces, other than decay-resistant woods, shall be protected from the elements and decay by painting or other protective covering or treatment. Substantial peeling, flaking, and chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted. All siding and masonry joints, as well as those between the building envelope and the perimeter of windows, doors, and skylights shall be maintained weather resistant and water tight. All metal surfaces subject to rust or corrosion shall be stabilized and coated to inhibit future rust and corrosion. Surfaces designed for stabilization by oxidation are exempt from this requirement. Exterior walls shall be free from holes, breaks, and loose or rotting materials.

(b) *Exterior Structural Members and Walls.* All structural members and walls shall be maintained free from deterioration and shall be capable of safely supporting the imposed dead and live loads of the structure's legal use and occupancy.

(c) *Exterior Foundation Walls.* The foundation walls of every building shall be maintained plumb and free from open cracks and breaks and shall be kept in such condition so as to prevent the entry of rodents and other pests. Foundations, floors, and walls shall be in good painted or finished condition without peeling.

(d) *Roofs and Openings.* Roofs and flashing shall be sound, tight, and not have defects that admit rain. Roofs shall be adequate to prevent dampness or deterioration in the walls or interior portion of the structure. Roof drains, gutters, and downspouts shall be maintained and free from obstructions. Roof water shall be discharged in a manner so that it does not fall onto adjacent property. Roof tiles, shingles, and any other attachments shall be properly attached and kept in good condition.

(e) *Exhaust Vents.* Pipes, ducts, conductors, fans, or blowers shall not discharge gases, steam, vapor, hot air, grease, smoke, odors, or other gaseous or particulate wastes directly upon abutting or adjacent public or private property.

(f) *Decorative Features.* All cornices, belt courses, corbels, terra cotta trim, wall facings, and similar decorative features shall be maintained with proper anchorage and in a safe condition.

(g) *Overhang Extensions.* All overhang extensions including but not limited to canopies, marquees, signs, metal awnings, fire escapes, standpipes, and exhaust ducts shall be properly anchored and maintained in a safe condition.

(h) *Stairways, Handrails, Decks, Porches, and Balconies.* Every exterior stairway, handrail, deck, porch, balcony, gallery, and all appurtenances attached thereto shall be maintained structurally sound and safe, with proper anchorage and capable of supporting the imposed loads.

(i) *Chimneys and Towers.* All chimneys, cooling towers, smoke stacks, and similar appurtenances shall be maintained structurally sound and safe.

(j) *Windows, Skylights, Door Frames, and Insect Screens.* All windows, including skylights, and door frames shall be kept in sound condition and weather-tight. All glazing materials shall be maintained free from substantial cracks and holes. Boarded windows and doors shall comply with Section 9-98 and shall not be boarded for more than twelve (12) months. Windows, other than fixed windows, shall be operable and capable of being held in position by window hardware. All existing insect screens shall be intact, free from holes or breaks, and tightly fitted.

(k) *Rodent Harborage.* Buildings and structures shall be maintained free of insect, vermin, pigeon, and rodent harborage and infestation.

(l) *Clean and Sanitary Conditions.* Buildings and structures shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition free from health, safety, and fire hazards.

(m) *Storefronts.* No storefront shall be vacant for more than one hundred twenty (120) days. For these purposes, "vacant" shall include any storefront which is not open to the public for a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week. All storefronts, both occupied and non-occupied, and their walls exposed to public view shall be kept in a good state of repair and free of graffiti.

(n) *Interior Structure.* All interior walls, stairs, porches, floors, ceilings, support pillars, and beams shall be maintained so as not to be damaged, collapsing, or deteriorating.

(3) Property-maintenance violations also include any conditions that unreasonably hinder the use of adjacent properties, block or interfere with the use of the public sidewalk or public or private street or right of way, obstruct the sighting of any road sign, obstruct utility lines or other cables to or around the premises, or extend or infringe beyond the boundaries of the premises.

(4) Property-maintenance violations also include situations in which the overall condition of the premises causes an unreasonable impact on the enjoyment of or value of neighboring properties as expressed by persistent complaints from adjoining and nearby property owners.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17; Ord. No. 05-18 , 7-9-18)

Sec. 9-94. - Enforcement.

(a) *Administration and enforcement.* There shall be a Division of Blight Remediation within the Department of Development Services that is the division responsible for the administration and enforcement of this article and the executive official in charge of the Division of Blight Remediation is known as the Director of Blight Remediation. The Director of Blight Remediation may issue rules, regulations, and policies needed for the enforcement of this article, subject to review and approval by the Blight Review Action Committee. The Division of Blight Remediation shall enforce the provisions of this article and any rules or policies promulgated under this article. The Director of Blight Remediation, or any designee(s) thereof, may undertake inspections of complaints for the purpose of documenting violations of this article. The Director of Blight Remediation, or any designee(s) thereof, may order any owner who violates this article to abate such violation, and is hereby authorized and empowered to issue citations for violations of this article. The Director of Blight Remediation, or any designee(s) thereof, is also authorized and empowered to effectuate the removal or abatement of the blight violation or property-maintenance violation under the procedures set forth in this article.

(b) *Inspections.* The Director of Blight Remediation, or any designee(s) thereof, may initiate inspections and investigations and shall receive information and complaints concerning blight violations of the provisions of this article. The Division of Blight Remediation shall maintain written status reports indicating the number of complaints, violations identified, active and closed cases, and other information as requested by the Mayor, the Court of Common Council, or the Blight Review Action Committee.

(c) *Complaint of blight violation.* Any individual, any civic organization, or any appropriate municipal agency may file in writing a complaint of a blight violation of this article with the Division of Blight Remediation.

(d) *Notice of violation; order to correct; time limit for compliance.* If the Director of Blight Remediation has reasons to believe, pursuant to an inspection of the premises, that two (2) or more blight violation(s) of this article exist, or that there exists a storefront vacancy violation, the Director of Blight Remediation or any designee(s) thereof may serve a written notice of violation(s) and an order to correct such violation(s) to the owner's last-known address by certified mail, return-receipt requested. If the owner's last-known address is the same as the property where the violation has occurred, then a copy of the notice of violation(s) and order to correct may be posted on the property at the time the violations are noted. The notice requirements of this section are deemed satisfied upon: (1) in the case of certified mail upon receipt by the City of either a signed confirmation of delivery or the entire letter returned as non-deliverable, or (2) in the case of the owner's address being the same as the address of the property where the violation has occurred, upon leaving a copy of the notice of violation and order to correct at the property at the time the violations are noted. The notice of violation(s) and order to correct shall direct the removal, correction, or abatement of the violation(s) in the manner specified in the order within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the notice. Such notice shall notify the owner that failure to remove, correct, or abate the violation will result in the issuance of a citation in accordance with this article. Such notice shall further notify the owner that failure to remove, correct, or abate the violation will result in fines being imposed that may be enforced subsequently as a lien on the owner's property and may be converted into a court judgment, and the City may cause the removal or abatement of the violation at the expense of the owner, which may likewise result in a lien on the owner's property that may be converted into a court judgment.

(e) *Failure to correct deficiencies: citation.* If an owner of property has been served with a notice of violation(s) and order to correct and has failed to remove, correct, or abate the violation(s) within ten (10) calendar days after receiving a notice of violation and order to correct, as determined upon subsequent inspection, then the owner shall be presumed to be in violation of this article for every day thereafter until the owner submits appropriate evidence that the violations have been corrected

(1) However, if the owner, within that ten (10) day period, demonstrates to the City that the owner intends in good faith to rehabilitate or demolish the premises, or that the violation has occurred as a result of a casualty loss for which insurance is available but the owner needs additional time to remove, correct, or abate the violation, or with respect to a storefront vacancy

violation, the owner is in negotiations with a potential occupant of the storefront, then the Director of Blight Remediation, or any designee(s) thereof, in his/her discretion, may issue a written stay of the enforcement of the citation and the enforcement of any fines imposed against the owner. Any stay is expressly conditioned upon the rehabilitation or demolition of the premises within a specified period of time not to exceed thirty (30) days, unless the owner requests an extension of time in writing to the Blight Review Action Committee, within the time specified in the stay and demonstrates that work to remove, correct, or abate the violation(s) is progressing in good faith. The Blight Review Action Committee may grant an extension up to sixty (60) days. The owner may request additional extensions up to sixty (60) days each. If the conditions of the stay have not been met within the specified time period, or the time period as it may be extended, the stay will be terminated and all fines assessed against the owner will be enforced against the owner in accordance with this article.

(2) The Division of Blight Remediation may issue a citation against the owner(s) assessing a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day, or the maximum authorized by G.S. § 7-148(c)(7)(H)(xv) or other state statutes or the Municipal Code, as may be amended from time to time, for each violation of this article that persists beyond ten (10) calendar days from the effective date of the notice of violation and order to correct until the owner presents appropriate evidence that the cited violations have been corrected and the premises have been re-inspected.

(3) Any citation issued pursuant to this article shall be served upon the owner by mailing the citation to the owner's last-known address by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by posting the citation in a visible manner on the subject property. A copy of the citation shall be filed with the town clerk, and any subsequent purchaser of the property shall be subject to such citation. The citation shall provide the owner with the following information:

(i) The allegations made against the property and the amount of the proposed fines per day of continued violation of the ordinance;

(ii) That the owner(s) may contest their liability before the City's duly appointed hearing officer by requesting an appeal pursuant to Section 9-95 of this article, "Citation hearing officer; appointment; appeals";

(iii) That if the owner(s) does not demand such a hearing within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the citation, the owner(s) shall be

deemed to have admitted liability, and the hearing officer may assess a fine without further notice;

(iv) That the City may file a lien against the property in accordance with G.S. § 7-148aa for the amount of any unpaid fine for a blight violation or property-maintenance violation imposed by the City in accordance with this article;

(v) That a lien may be enforced in the same manner as a property tax lien pursuant to G.S. § 7-148aa and this article;

(vi) That fines imposed may be converted to a court judgment for money damages with additional court cost imposed; and

(vii) That in the case of violations that pose a danger to the public health, welfare, and safety, the City may cause the conditions to be corrected, removed, or abated at the expense of the owner, and that the amount of costs for correction, removal, or abatement may also become a lien against the owner's real property.

(f) [Failure to pay.] If the owner(s) fail to pay, within forty-five (45) days of the citation, any and all civil penalties levied pursuant to this article, a one (1) percent interest charge shall be applied to the outstanding balance. The interest shall accrue and be compounded daily. Failure to pay any fee or civil penalties arising from the enforcement of this article constitutes a debt in favor of the City and shall constitute a lien upon the real estate against which the fee or civil penalty was imposed from the original date of such fee or civil penalty. Each such lien may be continued, recorded, and released in the manner provided by the Connecticut General Statutes for continuing, recording, and releasing property tax liens. Each such lien shall take precedence over all other liens and encumbrance filed after July 1, 1997, to the fullest extent permitted by law, except taxes, and may be enforced in the same manner as property tax liens. In addition to placing a lien against the property for failure to pay any fee arising from the enforcement of this article, the City may bring civil action against the debtor in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover such debt.

(g) *Anti-Blight Special Fund.*

(1) All monies collected by the City as fees and civil penalties for violation(s) of this article and revenue collected pursuant to the special assessment pursuant to this article shall be deposited into a special fund. This special fund shall be called the Anti-Blight Special Fund.

The purpose of this fund is to provide a source of funds to be used for all associated costs in securing, remediating, and remedying blight and enforcing the Anti-Blight and Property-Maintenance Program. Monies collected pursuant to storefront vacancy violations shall be segregated in a separate sub-account to be used for assistance in small business development in storefronts.

(2) Revolving Fund. The account shall be a permanent revolving account and shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year. All the monies and interests deposited in the Anti-Blight Special Fund shall not be transferred, appropriated, or deposited in the general fund or any other fund. All monies in this revolving fund shall be used exclusively for the purposes of the Anti-Blight and Property-Maintenance Program as set forth herein.

(3) Civil Penalties, Violations, and Liens. Any civil penalties or liens placed on any property [in]as a result of any violation of the Anti-Blight & Property-Maintenance Program which have been assessed and collected from a foreclosure, sale, or judicial settlement shall be deposited in the Anti-Blight Special Fund.

(h) Appeal for relief of citation. Any owner served with a citation in accordance with this article may, within ten (10) days of receipt of the citation, appeal in writing for relief from the citation hearing officer in accordance with sections 1-5 and section 9-95 of the Municipal Code.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17; Ord. No. 05-18 , 7-9-18)

Sec. 9-95. - Citation hearing officer; appointment; appeals.

The Corporation Counsel shall appoint individuals to hear appeals concerning citations issued under Section 9-94, pursuant to the provisions of section 1-5 of the Municipal Code. The City Council may make recommendations to the Corporation Counsel concerning the individuals to be appointed to serve as citation hearing officers. The individuals appointed to serve as citation hearing officers shall serve for a term of up to one (1) year or until a successor is appointed. All citation hearing officer appointees shall have backgrounds in law and/or issues relating to housing. Each hearing officer appointed pursuant to this section shall hear appeals under this article. In deciding to appoint an individual as a citation hearing officer under this section, the Corporation Counsel shall give preference first to City residents and second to those with a place of business in the City and students attending a law school located in the City. Individuals appointed as citation hearing officers under this section shall serve at the pleasure of the Corporation Counsel.

(1) An owner may appeal for relief of each citation issued pursuant to section 9-94 to a citation hearing officer in accordance with the provisions of section 1-5 of the Municipal Code. Relief shall be requested in writing within ten (10) days of the citation. Relief may be granted if the owner can establish to the hearing officer's satisfaction that:

- a. The owner cited was not the owner of record of the property at the time the notice of violation and order to correct was issued; or
- b. Notice of the violation was not properly served upon the owner of record in accordance with subsection 9-94; or
- c. The notice of violation was not in proper form; e.g., failed to inform the owner of the section of the Municipal Code being cited for, failed to give owner sufficient time to cure violation, etc.; or
- d. The notice of citation was not properly served to the owner of record in accordance with subsection 9-94; or
- e. The notice of citation was not in proper form; e.g., failed to contain the amount of the penalty incurred under subsection 9-94, failed to inform the owner of the right to appeal, etc.; or
- f. The Director of Blight Remediation incorrectly determined that the violations cited were not corrected within the ten-day period, or time period granted by a stay of enforcement, as required by subsection 9-94; or
- g. The property is subject to a stay of enforcement issued pursuant to section 9-94; or
- h. The real property and its structures are actively undergoing repairs that are required to be made to correct violations of state or local codes; or
- i. The owner has in good faith corrected all cited violations and it would work a substantial economic hardship on the owner of the real property to require further payment of penalties in compliance with this article.

(2) Full documentation, such as code violation reports, engineering reports, and any other information deemed necessary by the hearing officer shall be provided by the owner(s).

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17; Ord. No. 05-18 , 7-9-18)

Sec. 9-96. - Blight review action committee report; hearing.

(a) The Blight Review Action Committee shall present a bi-annual status report at the regular meetings of the Court of Common Council listing all properties deemed to be blighted within the meaning of this article. The report shall include the following:

- (1) The factors which, in the Blight Review Action Committee's opinion, warrant the determination that the premises so listed are blighted;
- (2) The efforts undertaken by the City to eliminate the blighting condition, such as clearing the premises of debris or barricading the structures on the premises, and that such actions were unsuccessful;
- (3) That either (a) the owner of the premises cannot or will not eliminate the blight violation, or (b) the owner has not responded to a lawful order by the City to take action to eliminate the blight violation within ten (10) days after due notice or order has been served by means set forth in subsection 9-94(d).

(b) At the regular meeting at which the Council receives the report from the Blight Review Action Committee, the Council shall set a date no later than thirty (30) days thereafter at which time a public hearing shall be held in regard to the existence of blight violations on the named premises, except that no public hearing shall be held on those properties which are the subject of a pending section 1-5 hearing.

(c) At the public hearing the report of the Blight Review Action Committee shall be treated as prima facie evidence of blight on the premises.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17)

Sec. 9-97. - Acquisition of properties.

The Director of the Department of Development Services is authorized to take the necessary steps to acquire any properties covered by the provisions of this article and which have been certified by the building official to be abandoned pursuant to the Urban Homesteading Act, G.S. § 8-169(o), et seq., as it may be amended from time to time, or any other ordinance or state statute. The Director of the Department of Development Services is further authorized to take necessary steps to acquire any properties covered by the provisions of this article, provided there are funds available, using other state and federal means as they may be available.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17)

Sec. 9-98. - Securing and painting of openings in buildings.

The Director of Licenses and Inspections or the Director of Blight Remediation, or any designee(s) thereof, may order the owner of a vacant or abandoned building to secure all doors and windows, including any or all windows in the upper floors of the building, of any building which is vacant or abandoned. The Director of Licenses and Inspections or the Director of Blight Remediation, or any designee(s) thereof, shall designate the materials and procedures to be used to comply with such order. The Director of Licenses and Inspections or the Director of Blight Remediation, or any designee(s) thereof, shall order all property owners of vacant or abandoned buildings to paint all boards of raw plywood or other similar materials used to cover all doors, windows, or other areas, with a color which matches the color of the building. If the owner of the building fails, neglects, or refuses to comply properly with the terms of the order issued pursuant to this section by the Director of Licenses and Inspections or the Director of Blight Remediation, the Director of Licenses and Inspections or the Director of Blight Remediation or any designee(s) thereof may cause the required work to be performed by City staff or an independent contractor; the Director of Licenses and Inspections or the Director of Blight Remediation is not obligated to secure any building that is not deemed unsafe. The Corporation Counsel's Office may institute an action against the owner of the building to recover the cost of any work performed at the expense of the City pursuant to this section.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17; Ord. No. 05-18, 7-9-18)

Sec. 9-98A. - Reserved.

Sec. 9-98B. - Reduction in assessment for rehabilitated structures.

(a) The assessment on real property, which is determined to have two (2) or more existing blight violations under this article and is within one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet of residential property, shall, at the discretion of the City Assessor, be adjusted as provided for in subsection (c) and pursuant to G.S. § 12-121e, provided all other criteria established in this section are met.

(b) Before such real property will be considered for a deferral under this section, a "request for deferral" application shall be filed with the department of assessment which shall include:

- (1) A description of the parcel;
- (2) A description of the planned improvements thereon and intended use;
- (3) An itemized estimate of the cost of those improvements; and

(4) A timetable detailing the schedule of improvements.

(c) Real property that meets the requirements of subsections (a) and (d) of this section shall have the assessment on the building to be rehabilitated reduced for a period of nine (9) years from the time such improvement has been completed and a certificate of occupancy has been issued pursuant to section 35-69. Such adjusted assessment shall reflect the value of the structure prior to rehabilitation and shall defer any increase in assessment attributable to such improvement according to the following schedule:

Year	Percentage of increase deferred
1	100
2	100
3	100
4	100
5	100
6	80
7	60
8	40
9	20
10	0

(d) For a building to be considered for an assessment deferral under this section, the following criteria shall be met:

(1) Residential (one- to four-family, co-ops and condominiums) and apartments (five-family and up).

a. The building shall be at least fifteen (15) years old.

b. The investment in the building to be improved shall be at least thirty (30) percent of the assessed value of said property as of the last revaluation.

c. No building shall be eligible unless appropriate building permits have been acquired and applications for such permits are made at the

same time as the filing for an assessment deferral with the City Assessor.

d. Any rehabilitated structure shall meet all zoning requirements and conform to the City plan of development.

e. Within seven (7) days of completion of improvements and issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the Assessor shall be notified by the owner.

(2) Commercial and industrial.

a. The building shall be at least twenty (20) years old.

b. The investment in the building to be improved shall be at least forty (40) percent of the assessed value of said property as of the last revaluation.

c. No building shall be eligible unless appropriate building permits have been acquired and applications for such permits are made at the same time as the filing for an assessment deferral with the City Assessor.

d. Any rehabilitated structure shall meet all zoning requirements and conform to the City plan of development.

e. Within seven (7) days of completion of improvements and issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the Assessor shall be notified.

(e) For the purposes of revaluation, the market value prior to rehabilitation and the post rehabilitated market value will fluctuate with the revaluation. The market value of the property prior to rehabilitation will be adjusted by a factor equal to the median change in value for the property use code as a result of the revaluation. The post rehabilitated market value of the property will be recalculated with the revaluation. In cases where rehabilitation has not been completed prior to the implementation of a revaluation, the market value of the property will be recalculated with the revaluation.

(f) If rehabilitation work is not completed or a certificate of occupancy has not been obtained within two (2) years of the date of the approval of the Assessment Deferral application, a new application shall be filed with the Assessment Division and re-approved for the property to maintain eligibility of the program. If the property is transferred after program approval and before a certificate of occupancy

for the rehabilitation work has been issued, the new owner shall file a new application with the Assessment Division prior to the commencement or recommencement of work and would require re-approval for the property to maintain its program eligibility.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17)

Sec. 9-98C. - Blight review action committee.

(a) The Blight Review Action Committee is established and comprised of the Corporation Counsel or his or her designee within the Office of Corporation Counsel, Tax Assessor or his or her designee, Director of Blight Remediation or her or his designee, Director of Licenses and Inspections or his or her designee, Director of the Department of Public Works or his or her deputy, Director of Health and Human Services or his or her deputy, and Tax Collector or his or her designee and has the authority conferred upon the Committee by this article. The Chair of the Blight Review Action Committee shall be the Director of Blight Remediation.

(b) The Committee has the authority to administer the provisions of this article through the Director of Blight Remediation, to determine when and under what circumstances entry upon private property shall be authorized, and to settle, based on the recommendation of the Director of Blight Remediation, any fines, citations, civil penalties, or liens placed on any property for violations of this article if such settlements are deemed, in the Committee's discretion, necessary to promote the policy set forth in Section 9-91A, Declaration of policy.

(Ord. No. 11-17, 3-13-17)

Introduced by:

Majority Leader Thomas J. Clarke, II
Councilman John Q. Gale
Councilman James B. Sanchez

**HEADING
AND
PURPOSE**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE IVa, SECTION 102, et Seq. OF THE
HARTFORD MUNICIPAL CODE

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL,
CITY OF HARTFORD

February 9, 2021

Be It Hereby Ordained by the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford:

SECTION I. FINDINGS

The Hartford Court of Common Council finds that:

- (1) Documents obtained during litigation against the tobacco industry reveal that tobacco companies have used fruit, candy, and alcohol flavors as a way to target youth. Tobacco industry documents stated that "sweetness can impart a different delivery taste dimension which younger adults may be receptive to," that "[i]t's a well-known [sic] fact that teenagers like sweet products," and that flavored products would have appeal "in the under 35 age group, especially in the 14-24 group."
- (2) Marketing and public health research shows that flavors such as fruit, candy, and alcohol hold an intense appeal to minors and young adults. The presence of flavors such as menthol in tobacco products can make it more difficult for adult tobacco users to quit. Moreover, menthol cigarettes in particular have a disproportionate health impact on youth, as well as members of racial and ethnic populations, the LGBT community, and people of low socio-economic status.
- (3) Forty-one state attorneys general sued a tobacco company selling flavored cigarettes, arguing that it was violating the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement by targeting youth. The settlement of that litigation included an agreement that the tobacco company stop marketing flavored cigarettes.
- (4) The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act of 2009 prohibits the manufacture and sale of flavored cigarettes, except menthol cigarettes. No federal prohibition exists for flavored non-cigarette tobacco products.
- (5) Jurisdictions such as the States of New Jersey and Massachusetts; New York City; Providence, Rhode Island; and Chicago, Illinois have passed restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products. The authority of state and local governments to restrict the sale of these products has been upheld by federal courts.
- (6) Accordingly, the City Council finds and declares that the purpose of this ordinance is to protect public health and welfare by reducing the appeal of tobacco to minors and reduce the likelihood that minors will become tobacco users later in life.

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this ordinance:

(a) *"Electronic smoking device"* means any device that may be used to deliver any aerosolized or vaporized substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, vape pen, or e-hookah. Electronic smoking device includes any component, part, or accessory of such a device, whether or not sold separately and also includes any substance that may be aerosolized or vaporized by such device, whether or not the substance contains nicotine. Electronic smoking device does not include drugs, devices, or combination products approved for sale by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

(b) *"Flavored tobacco product"* means any tobacco product that imparts a taste or smell, other than the taste or smell of tobacco either prior to, or during the consumption of, a tobacco product, including, but not limited to, any taste or smell relating to menthol, mint, wintergreen, chocolate, cocoa, vanilla, honey, or any candy, dessert, alcoholic beverage, herb, or spice.

(c) *Retailer* means any person or business that owns, operates, or manages any place at which tobacco products are sold. Retailer also includes any person or business that is required to purchase a dealer's license under G.S. § 12-287.

(d) *"Tobacco product"* means any product containing, made of, or derived from tobacco or nicotine, that is intended for human consumption, or is likely to be consumed, whether inhaled, absorbed, or ingested by any other means, including but not limited to, a cigarette, a cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus; any electronic smoking device as defined in this section and any substances that may be aerosolized or vaporized by such device, whether or not the substance contains nicotine; and the term "tobacco product" includes any component, part or accessory used in the consumption of a tobacco product including but not limited to filters, rolling papers, blunt or hemp wraps, hookahs, flavor enhancers or liquids used in electronic smoking devices or pipes. The term "tobacco product" does not include drugs, devices or combination products approved for sale by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

SECTION III. PROHIBITION ON SALE

No retailer shall sell or offer for sale any flavored tobacco product or display, market or advertise for sale in the City of Hartford any flavored tobacco product.

There shall be a rebuttable presumption that a tobacco product is a flavored tobacco product if a tobacco retailer, manufacturer, or any employee or agent of a tobacco retailer or manufacturer has:

1. Made a public statement or claim that the tobacco product imparts a taste or smell other than the taste or smell of tobacco;
2. Used text or images, or both, on the tobacco product's labeling or packaging to explicitly or implicitly indicate that the tobacco product imparts a taste or smell other than tobacco; or
3. Taken action directed to consumers that would be reasonably expected to cause

consumers to believe the tobacco product imparts a taste or smell other than tobacco.

SECTION IV. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

It is a violation for any retailer to fail to comply with the requirements of this ordinance. If a retailer is found to have violated this ordinance, the retailer shall be charged an administrative penalty as follows:

1. First violation. The Hartford Department of Health and Human Services shall impose a civil fine of at least five hundred dollars (\$500).
2. Second violation within thirty-six (36) months of a first violation. The Department shall impose a civil fine of at least seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750).
3. Third violation within twenty-four (24) months of any preceding violation. The Department shall impose a civil fine of at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense. Failure to comply with any provision of this ordinance shall constitute grounds for the denial of, refusal to renew, suspension of, or revocation of any food, liquor, tobacco, or other business license issued by the city. Any fines collected under this ordinance shall be used for implementation and enforcement of the ordinance.

SECTION V. ENFORCEMENT

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Developmental Services, through its licenses and inspections function, shall enforce the provisions of this ordinance. All tobacco retailers shall be subject to such compliance checks as shall be determined by said departments to be reasonable and necessary to obtain compliance with this ordinance.

SECTION VI. SEVERABILITY

If any portion of this ordinance, or its application to any circumstances, is held invalid, the remaining portions shall be considered severable, and shall be given effect to the maximum extent possible.

SECTION VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect ninety (90) days after its publication.

INTRODUCED BY:

Maly D. Rosado, Council President
Councilman James Sanchez
Councilwoman Marilyn Rossetti
Councilwoman Shirley Surgeon
Councilman Nick Lebron
Councilman John Gale

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

City of Hartford, February 8, 2021

WHEREAS, The City of Hartford has made tremendous strides to be inclusive with respect to non-English speakers, including launching a city website which can easily be translated into multiple languages; and

WHEREAS, Though the administration, in collaboration with community partners, has increased the number of Spanish translated resident communications, the Court of Common Council recognizes there is still incredible need for increased translation services particularly among the city's Puerto Rican, Latin, and Hispanic communities; and

WHEREAS, According to Data USA, there are approximately 55,000 residents in the City of Hartford who self-identify as Hispanic which equates to roughly 44.5% of the total population; and

WHEREAS, Hartford's diverse Hispanic community is often not engaged in city government due to language barriers and are therefore unfamiliar with resources or services the city provides, this was made more apparent during the 2020 Census process; and

WHEREAS, Based on data from the State of Connecticut the City of Hartford represents one of the largest concentrations of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) communities in the state, with more than 5% of the total population lacking English proficiency while also being Spanish speakers; and

WHEREAS, The need to have documents translated into Spanish is explicitly stated in the Hartford municipal code under Article VI, Section 17-163, but does not exist in other prevalent locations where the need for Spanish translation is more apparent; and

WHEREAS, Funds for translation services and equipment were appropriated to the Hartford Public Library as part of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year budget adoption process, with no investment in translation infrastructure within City Hall; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council calls on the Mayor's office to provide more consistent administrative support dedicated to translation services for Hartford's Puerto Rican, Latin, and Hispanic communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the city pledges to begin investing in translation infrastructure as part of the upcoming budget process, so more residents are engaged, informed, and educated about city services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the City of Hartford recommit to translating vital documents to the public in both English and Spanish whenever possible.

INTRODUCED BY:

Maly D. Rosado, Council President
Councilman James Sanchez
Councilwoman Marilyn Rossetti
Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

City of Hartford, February 8, 2021

WHEREAS, The Urban Institute has reported that 13 million Americans live below the poverty line yet receive no support from the government, furthermore, reports indicate that 40% of Americans cannot afford an unexpected \$400 bill, and 78% are living paycheck-to-paycheck; and

WHEREAS, The global COVID-19 crisis has only exacerbated the income inequality that persists in America and thus has sparked renewed interest in Universal Basic Income (UBI) as a solution to address this problem by providing residents with a guaranteed income payment; and

WHEREAS, UBI is a cash payment that residents receive every month from the government, with no strings attached, that would be used for very specific expenses such as food and shelter; and

WHEREAS, The Roosevelt Institute found that UBI would create 4.6 million jobs by enabling new lines of work, including those undervalued by the market, such as volunteerism, music, the arts, caretaking, and more; and

WHEREAS, Over 1,000 economists, 461 research papers, and 30 cash transfer programs around the world prove UBI causes a variety of social and economic improvements and disproves fears around inflation and work motivation; and

WHEREAS, In 1967, Martin Luther King Jr. proposed a guaranteed income for American citizens, stating that it could reduce income inequality and abolish poverty; and

WHEREAS, A basic income can help stabilize the economy during recession and it would cost less to administer than many existing welfare programs that perpetuate structural inequalities by setting income and background restrictions; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D, HI-02) introduced H.R. 897 which sought to provide a Universal Basic Payment of \$1,000/month to help Americans weather the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Bipartisan demand for a basic income have been made by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D, NY-14), Senator Tom Cotton (R – AR), Rep. Katie Porter (D, CA-45), Senator Mitt Romney (R – UT), Rep. Tim Ryan (D, OH-13), Rep. Ro Khanna (D, CA-17); and

WHEREAS, The state of Alaska has had an active UBI program since 1982; and

WHEREAS, Stockton Mayor Michael D. Tubbs started the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED), a pilot program that gave a \$500 a month payment to 125 local families in Stockton, California; and

WHEREAS, SEED has found that providing a cash payment to residents has increased economic security for working-class families who spent the money on basic necessities like groceries, utilities, transportation costs, and rent; and

WHEREAS, In May 2020, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved a plan to provide 72 young adults ages 21-24, who were former foster youth, with a \$1,000 a month payment for a one-year pilot program; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council create a task force to evaluate the prospects of implementing a UBI pilot program in the City of Hartford; and be it further

RESOLVED, That membership of this task force would be appointed by the Council President and would include city leaders, community partners, and neighborhood residents; and be it further

RESOLVED, A report of the task forces' findings will be made available to the full City Council by the end of April 2021.

INTRODUCED BY:

Maly D. Rosado, Council President
Councilman James Sanchez
Councilwoman Marilyn Rossetti
Councilman Nick Lebron
Councilman John Gale
Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

City of Hartford, February 8, 2021

WHEREAS, According to the Pew Research Center, the United States has more immigrants than any other country in the world with more than forty million people living in the U.S. being born in another country; and

WHEREAS, Based on research done by the city's Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs it is estimated that approximately 38,000 Hartford residents ancestry can be traced to Mexico and/or Central America, while 11,000 residents migrated from the Caribbean, 23,000 residents from South America, 12,000 residents from Europe/Canada/Oceania, 15,000 residents from Asia, and 4,000 residents from Africa; and

WHEREAS, The City of Hartford has been and is a city of immigrants with a legacy of strong mayoral support for making Hartford a "welcoming city"; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Article XXI, Section 2-927 of the municipal code "Any service provided by a City of Hartford department shall be made available to residents, regardless of immigration status."; and

WHEREAS, Hartford's diverse community is often not engaged by city government due to language barriers and are therefore unfamiliar with resources or services the city provides; this was made apparent during the 2020 Census process; and

WHEREAS, Information distributed by the city to residents should be made available in languages other than English when requested, this includes, but is not limited to Swahili, Spanish, Somali, Farsi, Arabic, Burmese Karen, Portuguese, Bosnian, Albanian, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Hindi, Creole, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Polish, and Nepalese; and

WHEREAS, When adopting the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year budget the Court of Common Council set aside funds for translation equipment and/or services to be administered through the Hartford Public Library to be made accessible to all City of Hartford departments, but more aggressive actions should be taken by the City of Hartford to support our diverse population; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council calls on representatives from the Hartford Public Library and the Mayor's Office to provide an update on progress of this taxpayer funded initiative; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the city's Office of Community Engagement provide a biannual report to the Court of Common Council on its efforts to engage/inform/educate Hartford's refugee and immigrant families; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs provide a report to the Court of Common Council, in 2021, on the “current state of affairs” for Hartford’s refugee and immigrant communities.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

City of Hartford, February 8, 2021

INTRODUCED BY:

Maly D. Rosado, Council President
Thomas J. Clarke II, Majority Leader
Councilwoman Marilyn Rossetti
Councilman James Sanchez
Councilwoman Shirley Surgeon
Councilman Nick Lebron
Councilman John Gale

WHEREAS, There are currently 712,000 residents living in D.C., more than Vermont and Wyoming and comparable with other states including Delaware, Alaska, and others; and

WHEREAS, The city was founded in 1790 and for a brief time residents enjoyed voting rights and were allowed to cast ballots as residents of Maryland or Virginia, but those rights ended with the passage of the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801; and

WHEREAS, D.C. residents pay the highest per-capita federal incomes taxes in the United States, in fact, D.C. residents pay more in total federal income tax than residents of 22 other states, but have no say over how those tax dollars are spent; and

WHEREAS, D.C. elects a Delegate to the US House of Representatives who can draft legislation but cannot vote; and

WHEREAS, D.C. residents do not have a voice in Senate Committees or on the Senate Floor which means that D.C. residents have no say in the determination of who should serve as leadership of federal agencies, serve as U.S Ambassadors to foreign countries, sit on federal court benches or serve in the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States sets only a maximum size, "ten miles square," for the federal district that is the "Seat of the government of the United States," however, Congress has the authority to redefine the borders of the federal district and shrink its size, as it did in 1846, when the portion west of the Potomac was returned to Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Creating the new state will require a simple reduction in the size of the federal district to an unpopulated area which includes the US Capitol, the National Mall, museums, some federal office buildings, the White House, the Supreme Court, and major national monuments; and

WHEREAS, Through the "Tennessee Plan" the prospective state's electorate votes on statehood and ratifies a constitution, without an enabling act, and then uses this as a basis to petition Congress for admission, this approach was pioneered by Tennessee in 1796 and was used by Michigan, Iowa, California, Oregon, Kansas, and Alaska to gain admission to the Union; and

WHEREAS, Under the Tennessee Plan a bill must pass the US House of Representatives and US Senate and then must be signed by the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, On January 3, 2021 the D.C. elected Delegate, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, introduced H.R. 51 with a record 202 cosponsors which if approved would lay the foundation for D.C. to become our 51st state; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Hartford Court of Common Council calls upon United States Senators Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal, the Connecticut Federal delegation, and all of Congress to support the passage of any measure that would lead to D.C. statehood.

INTRODUCED BY:

Maly D. Rosado, Council President
Councilman James Sanchez
Councilwoman Marilyn Rossetti
Councilman Nick Lebron
Councilman John Gale

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

City of Hartford, February 8, 2021

WHEREAS, The Treaty of Paris between the U.S. and Spain, signed December 10, 1898 and ratified by Congress on April 11th of the same year, ended the Spanish American War and officially ceded Puerto Rico to the United States; and

WHEREAS, On April 12, 1900 the U.S. Congress enacted The Foraker Act (Public Law 56-191) which replaced the temporary military government and established a civilian governing structure led with limited local participation in the island's affairs; and

WHEREAS, On March 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Jones-Shafroth Act. This law gave Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship. It also separated the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches of Puerto Rican government, provided civil rights to some individuals, and created a locally elected bicameral legislature; and

WHEREAS, As United States citizens, Puerto Ricans pay federal taxes, Social Security and Medicare, but lack voting representation in Congress, cannot vote for President and do not enjoy EQUAL RIGHTS under the constitutional as other fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, A series of Supreme Court decisions made in the early 20th century known as the Insular cases established Puerto Rico is "owned by and not a part of the United States"; and

WHEREAS, The approval of the federal Elective Governor Act by President Harry S. Truman in 1947 established that Puerto Rico's governor had to be elected through a democratic process every four years since 1948; and

WHEREAS, On July 3, 1952, the people of Puerto Rico overwhelmingly approved a constitution that was drafted by the people, officially establishing the Commonwealth status of Puerto Rico by popular referendum; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have since voted in 6 non-binding plebiscites in 1967, 1993, 1998, 2012, 2017 and most recently on November 3rd, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The most recent referenda were marred by voting irregularities and confusing ballot language, and, in 2017 and 2020, they were also rejected by the United States Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, Aside from being rejected by the United States Department of Justice, the 2017 referendum was also boycotted and 23 percent of registered voters cast ballots in an Island where voter participation often hovers around 80 percent; and

WHEREAS, In 2020 New York Congresswomen Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) introduced the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020

(H.R. 8113), a bill that recognizes the inherent authority of the people of Puerto Rico to call for a Constitutional Assembly; and

WHEREAS, As reported on USA.com, the City of Hartford is home to approximately 55,000 Hispanics, of which approximately 42,000 are of Puerto Rican descent making this issue deeply personal; and

WHEREAS, Only Congress can add new states to the Union, via an Admission Act or House Resolution which would require approval by a simple majority in the House and Senate; and

WHEREAS, Statehood is not the only viable option as the Island is still deeply divided and groups believe that pro-independence, pro-Commonwealth, and/or pro-free association are also worth discussing; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council calls upon Congressman John Larson to cosponsor the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020 (H.R. 8113); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council calls upon United States Senators Richard Blumenthal and Christopher Murphy, the Connecticut Federal delegation, and all of Congress to support the passage of H.R. 8113.

INTRODUCED BY
Councilman John Q. Gale
Councilman James Sanchez
Councilwoman Maly D. Rosado

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, February 8, 2021

WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of Connecticut is presently in session, and

WHEREAS, there are actions which can be taken by the legislature which can be of a direct benefit to the residents of the City of Hartford, and

WHEREAS, as the duly elected legislative body of the City of Hartford, the Court of Common Council owes a duty to the residents of Hartford to promote such legislative changes at the state level as the Council deems a priority; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the City of Hartford supports the following legislative initiatives which are either pending before the legislature of the State of Connecticut or may be introduced therein during the present legislative session:

1. Legalization of Recreational Marijuana with appropriate expenditures of revenue generated to address equity issues created by its criminalization.
2. Clean Slate Act relating to criminal records.
3. Institution of Tolls on State Highways with appropriate expenditures of revenue generated to address mass transit issues.
4. Auto Insurance Territorial Rate Reform to require that insurers provide the same auto insurance rates to all persons in the same county.
5. Mill Rate Relief – that the State of Connecticut provide relief to the City of Hartford from the oppressive mill rate which is necessary to provide basic city services (as determined by the MARB) yet makes development in the City an economic impossibility resulting in no substantial growth in the grand list for over twenty years.
6. Bottle Bill revisions to include nips and to generally increase to 10 cents the rate for all returnables and Mattress Recycling extended to consumers.
7. MIRA relocation of solid waste treatment for at least non-Hartford generated solid waste to a site outside of Hartford.
8. Elimination of Flavored Tobacco Products.
9. Provide secure parentage for children from non-traditional families through the Connecticut Parentage Act

This list is not an indication of the ranking by Council as to any particular initiative; and

RESOLVED, that the Hartford Legislative Delegation consisting of Representatives Matt Ritter, Minnie Gonzalez, Julio Concepcion, Brandon McGee,

Edwin Vargas and Joshua Hall, and State Senators John Fonfara and Doug McCrory, be advised of these legislative priorities; and

RESOLVED, that the Governor and legislature of the State of Connecticut be advised of these priorities.

INTRODUCED BY

Councilman John Q. Gale
Councilman James Sanchez
Councilwoman Maly D. Rosado
Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez
Councilman Joshua Michtom

**COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, February 8, 2021**

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2018, the Court of Common Council authorized the City of Hartford to enter into a ten year lease pursuant to which State house Square Retail Limited Partnership leased from the City for One Dollar annually the plaza known as State House Square; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2018, the Court of Common Council also provided the owners of the premises adjacent to State House Square with annual tax relief for ten (10) years of up to \$150,000; and

WHEREAS, said authorizations included a requirement that the owners of said premises “make reasonable efforts to attract vendors and food service provides to the plaza on a seasonal, or if possible, year-round basis, including but not limited to outdoor restaurant seating, and report back annually to City Council on or before March 1 of each year”, see Certified Resolutions attached; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Common Council has yet to receive any such reports; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that Mac-State Square, LLC and FBE-State Square LLC provide a report to Council on or before March 1, 2021 consistent with its obligation under the above described tax relief, and

RESOLVED, that said owners show cause why the tax relief granted should not be withdrawn, modified or suspended as a result of the failure of said owners to comply with the terms and conditions of said tax relief as provided by the Court of Common Council.