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Why I am running for Democratic Town Chair of Hartford - The case for change.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the voters in Hartford resoundingly rejected the leadership of Mayor Eddie Perez and his henchman, Democratic Town Chair Sean Arena, by voting in at least 1 new Board of Education members; who belong to the Working Families Party all to the detriment of the Democratic Party. The total vote was a terrible 7% of all those who registered and were able to vote, clearly the worst showing in Hartford's recorded voting history.

Mr. Arena as party chair was only able to raise a few thousand dollars and by all accounts had no credible "get out the vote" plan. Notwithstanding the energy and vitality of the Working Families Party, the Hartford Democrats should have handily won; but were punished by the voters who have had enough of city hall parasitic corruption, negligence and incompetence. The Hartford voters quietly rebelled at the polls. About 4,000 voters actually voted in which the highest voting total Democrat received roughly 1400 votes or about 1/3 of the total votes.

Where did the remaining 2/3 of Hartford's voters go? I submit to the public that those voters chose to leave the Democratic Party because of the continuing, parasitic corruption, negligence and incompetence coming from city hall within the Democratic Party, run by the mayor's henchman Sean Arena.

The voters chose to reward the Working Families Party as a beneficiary of their voting largely because they offered energy and were not part of the corruption at city hall, and had a vision to offer the city of Hartford.

Mr. Arena as party chair failed miserably by fundraising only a few thousand dollars for a citywide effort. As a result of his negligence and incompetence the entire city had only about 100 signs to distribute, when normally there would be 1000 were available for distribution. Poll workers were not "fed food" by the Democratic Town Committee, when in the past they were provided with food. Poll standers, who might stand at the polls for hours, were also not provided with food or shown in any way that the Democratic Party appreciated them for their efforts.

The Democratic Party did not have its own campaign office or satellite offices, and had to beg a labor union to use their office as a primary campaign office. There was no city organized absentee ballot operation as there was in years past; nor were any direct mailings sent to voters as it had been in years past. Not once was there a meeting of the entire democratic town committee scheduled in order to discuss a G.O.T.V. plan for the party. To say that Mr. Arena's efforts last Tuesday were miserable or terrible would be an understatement; it was an unsatisfactory effort on behalf of Mr. Arena and was a public let down to the Democratic Party. In addition to the above technical issues, this crushing defeat of the Democratic Party in Hartford, is a loud and clear voice for change- from the same old to the new innovated and energized Democratic Party.

WE STAND WITH YOU

For the past several years allegations of negligence and corruption have rocked city hall resulting in felony arrests of Mayor Perez, a council woman, a past state representative, a city official and politically connected contractors. Every time the Mayor gets arrested he holds a "pep rally" at city hall and each time Democratic Party chair Sean Arena has been present, in support of the Mayor. Mr. Arena never once has offered the public an opinion regarding these arrests; this is an affront to public discourse; nor has he permitted any discourse of these corruption allegations within the Hartford Democratic Town Committee.

Mr. Arena's two prime mentors and closest allies have been arrested for corruption charges and at least, the democratic party is still awaiting a response from Mr. Arena that offers the voting public hope and reassurance that city hall, and the democratic party will be free of corruption, negligence and incompetence in the future.

Due to the recent crushing defeat of the Democratic Party, we can no longer be silent and hope for the best for our city or party. We can no longer wait for Mr. Arena to propose an honest democracy and transparency within the Democratic Party. Now is the time to shout, "all hands need to be on deck". The citizens of Hartford have been suffering through six straight years of tax increases, negligence and corruption at city hall and within the Democratic Party and our party officials and elected officials owe us clean government and clean politics or we may well see a minority party successful in the coming Mayoral and council races.

I was born and raised in Hartford and a graduate of local schools. I am an Attorney and a Hartford resident. I was a former Democratic State Financial Chair who personally raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for various candidates, with never a hint of scandal. I have had successful senior political roles in national, statewide and local races.

I pledge to you that when I am Hartford Democratic Party Chair I shall help usher in a new honest democracy and demand transparency within the Democratic Party in Hartford while simultaneously working with the democratic voters to change how city hall is viewed and governed. At the present a foul odor emanates from the Hartford Democratic Party and City Hall. The time is now with raised voices to rid the city government and the party of political parasites, corruption, negligence and incompetence.

And so the process begins in January to elect democratic town committee members or gear up for a district primary, should the necessity arise, in early March. The elected party district will meet in late March to elect a new Democratic Party Chair. I encourage every Democrat that cares for honest government and politics to work with and vote for the Democratic Town Committee Members that want fundamental change at city hall and within our party. The time to start organizing is "now" and I will back and support all those reform democrats to the best of my ability to insure that we may emerge victorious with a reformed party, whose collective voice will resonate and clean up city hall and our Democratic Party. This race is not about me; it's about you, our party and government. Hartford residents must have confidence in the Democrats of our city and our government.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce D. Rubenstein