

SUMMER/FALL 2009

The Mayor's UPDATE

Hartford
New England's Rising StarSM



Eddie A. Perez, Mayor



Mayor sits in brand new auditorium at Kinsella School for Performing Arts.

Investing in our schools is paying off! The 2009-2010 school year promises to build on the positive momentum Hartford students have achieved. As many of you know, I made our children's education one of my top priorities and served as Chairman of the Board of Education for more than 3 years. I am proud of that commitment and even more proud of the progress we have made together.

Test scores are up 2 years in a row! Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPT) improved significantly

– continuing our efforts to close the Achievement Gap and make our kids more competitive for colleges and jobs. I want to give a special shout out to Dwight Elementary School for showing the biggest improvement.

Here's something else to cheer about: 2 newly constructed schools are open – University High School for Science and Engineering and Kinsella Magnet School for the Performing Arts. We're providing our young people with a positive learning environment and we've created more than 200 construction jobs for Hartford residents who earned more than \$2 million in wages on these projects.

Reminder: When school is in session, please drive extra carefully as students walk to school and get off their buses. Please obey speed limits and bus traffic signals. **Here's the Transportation Hotline: (860) 695-8547.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eddie Perez".

Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

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www.hartford.gov



SMART GROWTH:

Good for the Economy and the Environment!

All Aboard the Griffin Line! Hartford leaders support commuter rail and have for more than a decade. This freight line runs from Union Station Downtown, along Blue Hills Avenue, to Windsor. Investing in rail means more jobs, easier commutes, and better connects Hartford to New Haven, Springfield, and Bradley International Airport.



STIMULUS DOLLARS AT WORK!

Hartford received \$4.2 million in Federal COPS funding to hire 23 more police officers. It is encouraging that some stimulus money is being distributed directly to urban "Main Streets." Hartford is eligible for more than \$300 million in Federal Stimulus Grants. Meantime, the City is stimulating its own Arts and Heritage Economy with \$1.1 million to create 350 employment opportunities.

"GreenUp Hartford!"



HARTFORD RECYCLES

It Works Because of You!

Single-stream recycling is going city-wide. Starting this fall, all 1-6 family households will receive a free 64-gallon blue cart and can earn coupons to redeem at local businesses. Watch your mail or log-on to www.hartford.gov/green.htm for details.

Saluting Hartford Heroes!



Hometown Hero presents the Stars and Stripes! SSgt. Dane Beckford of the U.S. Air Force proudly presents an American Flag that flew over Iraq to the City. Hartford also paid tribute to our brave service men and women through a national letter writing campaign and tying a yellow ribbon around a Charter Oak Tree in Bushnell Park as a symbol of hope for their safe return.

VETERANS: Please note that you may be eligible for an exemption on your taxes. You must have served at least 90 days and during a period of war. To qualify, you must file your DD214 discharge papers with the Town and City Clerk prior to October 1st. Disabled Veterans must also file a disability rating sheet with the Assessors Office.



**PEACE
IT UP!**

**Peacebuilders
are making a
difference.**

The initiative through the Hartford Office for Youth Services (HOYS) eases tensions and mediates conflicts before they escalate. This anonymous outreach effort is helping young people choose a positive lifestyle. Be the change at HOYSINFO@hartford.gov.

Fight Graffiti!

See graffiti on a public building or sign? **Call 311!**

Hartford: *Come See For Yourself!*

