

# City Government Working For You!



## First Major Victory in Battle Against Blight Using New Anti-Blight Ordinance



Now that the City of Hartford has more control and enforcement power regarding blighted properties, an old warehouse with a sagging roof at 42 Francis Avenue is being demolished. The new Anti-Blight Ordinance that went into effect this past summer allowed the City to obtain the property through strict foreclosure. On or about

November 6, 2008, citations and regulation violations of \$400 per day from various city departments started adding up quickly for Westall Company, LLC. At the time of acquisition, the \$56,000 was owed.

Once the lot is cleared, the property could go up for public auction or otherwise be available for development. In the meantime, several other blighted properties are in the process of being foreclosed.

Blight is one of the most talked about quality of life issues in our neighborhoods. Mayor Eddie Perez thanks Parkville neighbors for their commitment to improving their community. (Photo: Courtesy Andy Hart)

**The Celebration is Underway!** The Hartford 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee kicked-off what will be a year-long tribute to the Capital City's historic past and promising future. A series of events--- in conjunction with our rich arts and heritage organizations and diverse business partners--- will showcase Hartford's many milestones through marquee events that include the July 10<sup>th</sup> fireworks display along the majestic Connecticut River and an expanded and enhanced Hooker Day Parade on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The festivities got underway March 5<sup>th</sup> at Connecticut's Old State House thanks to a rousing ceremonial drum call to order performed by Artists Collective African Connection and Peter "P-Boogie" Reynolds.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez, along with representatives of Connecticut's two other original river towns, Wethersfield and Windsor, were part of a procession that was led by the Hartford Police Department's Honor Guard. Also there to cheer-on the event--- the Saint Joseph's College Blue Jay mascot along with the Founder of our great City--- the Reverend Thomas Hooker.

Watch for the "Hartford 375" events on Government Cable Access Television Channel 96, [www.hartford.gov](http://www.hartford.gov), and [www.hartford.com](http://www.hartford.com). You can also follow the City of Hartford on Twitter and Facebook.

United States  
Census  
2010



## Census 2010 Update!

Watch your mailbox. **Census forms are scheduled to be mailed between March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>.** It takes 10 minutes to answer 10 questions. It's easy, important, and safe. Mail it back Hartford. Stand up and be counted. It's in our hands!



### Youth/Police Initiative: Building Positive Relationships, Seeing Positive Results.

Congratulations to the Hartford Office of Youth Services (HOYS), the Peacebuilders and the Hartford Police Department for establishing stronger relationships with at-risk youth in our City. The Youth/Police Initiative (YPI) promotes increased visibility and communication with officers to help teens and young adults stay on the right path filled with positive choices and not make a wrong decision that could affect the rest of their lives. This community-government partnership is good for Hartford's families and the City's future.

**Hartford Addresses Root Causes of Health Inequities:** Mayor Perez and Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) introduced the Health Equity Alliance Initiative. The City is one of three pilot sites chosen for the implementation of the state's Health Equity Index. With a theme of "Health Equity is a Social Justice Issue," this effort will focus on the root causes of poor health like not enough access to healthy food at neighborhood corner stores. The initiative is made possible through a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. There's a new live call-in show on Government Cable Access Television Channel 96 called "Healthy Hartford Speaks" starting March 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### *March Moments:*

- Women's History Month*
- Read Across America Month*
- Mayor's State of the City Address ([www.hartford.gov](http://www.hartford.gov))*
- St. Patrick's Day Parade (Saturday, March 13)*
- Daylight Saving Time Begins (Sunday, March 14)*
- Spring Begins (Saturday, March 20)*
- Palm Sunday (Sunday, March 28)*
- Passover (Sundown, Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>)*

### Frank Trust Federal Credit Union Opens Branch at Hartford Public High School:

Mayor Perez, who also proudly serves as a member of the Board of Education, joined school and business leaders at the grand opening ceremony. Students have the opportunity to gain banking and financial skills which are important since 30% of the State's future workforce will come from urban communities like Hartford. **Pictured below with the Mayor are Kiernan J. Dubay, CEO of Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union, Michael J. Shea, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee of Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union, Christina Kishimoto, Assistant Superintendent for School Design at Hartford Public Schools, David Chambers, Principal of the Nursing Academy at HPHS, Tori Niles, Principal of the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy at HPHS, Brittany Helddon, Building Administrator for HPHS, and Adam Johnson, Principal of the Law and Government Academy at HPHS.**



**Do You Qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit?** Tax Day is April 15<sup>th</sup> and United Way 2-1-1 is your link to information about Tax Credits, Free Income Tax Assistance (for those who qualify) and Tax Forms. To learn more about tax credits, wealth building, financial aid for college or for a referral to a free tax preparation site and appointment **dial 2-1-1** or go to **211 EITC Info** at <http://www.211ct.org/Taxes/Default.asp>

### One City, One Plan

Thank you to the hundreds upon hundreds of City residents, community groups, employees, and simply people who want to make a positive imprint on Hartford's future in the decade to come. Your suggestions have been incorporation into the latest draft of the One City, One Plan (POCD 2020) for conservation and development. You can read it online or in the Main Branch of the Hartford Public Library. The plan has been presented to City Council.