

# HARTFORD HAPPENINGS

## STATE OF THE CITY, STATE OF THE STATE

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### Save the Dates!

- The Planning and Economic Development Committee meetings are regularly scheduled for 6:00 p.m. the first Tuesdays of the month in Council Chambers.
- The Legislative Affairs Committee's meeting are regularly scheduled for 6:00 p.m. the fourth Tuesdays of every month.

Dates are subject to change.



Members of the State delegation, as well as John Rossi, District Chief of Staff for Congressman Larson, attended the Legislative Affairs Committee's community forum on the economy in February. Seated from left are Rep. Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey, Rep. Douglas McCrory, and Rep. Hector Robles. Mayor Eddie A. Perez, Sens. John Fonfara and Eric Coleman, and Rep. Kenneth Green also attended.

With a country in recession and budget deficits at the local and state levels, the economy is on everyone's mind. Residents have asked about President Obama's stimulus bill and how proposed cuts at the state level will impact Hartford.

In February, **Councilman Ritter**, as Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee, hosted a community forum to answer these and other questions. The bulk of the state delegation discussed their legislative priorities for the city, and **John Rossi**, District Chief of Staff for **Congressman John Larson** provided information on the Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. **Mayor Eddie A. Perez** also discussed his coalition with other city mayors to urge the state to increase PILOT (Payments In Lieu Of Taxes) funding.

Among the issues for which the delegation will advocate are summer youth employment, college tuition scholarships for Hartford students, offender re-entry programs and equitable education funding.

Rossi outlined key points of the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which will create jobs, provide for education and training programs, ensure continuation of lunch and nutrition programs for poor children; and provide tax relief for middle class families.

In a statement, Congressman Larson said: "The Act offers the short term help and long term solutions that this country needs. ... And it puts us on a path towards economic strength and stability for the future with bold reforms and new priorities."

Specifics of the bill are available at [www.recovery.org](http://www.recovery.org).

## PICS AND PIECES

The Ritter Family Foundation is pleased to announce that the following 11 Hartford students received college scholarships:

Henry Myers, '09; Gloria Gerena, '09; Joshua Chacon, '09; Linnes Ionno, '09; Mario Moreno, '10; Nicole Walton, '10; Clarissabeth Heredia, '11; Crystal Relerford, '11; Justica Candillo, '11; Latoya Walker, '12; and Kamari Howard, '12.

*Congratulations!!!*



Councilman Ritter's aide, **Andrea Comer**, traveled to Washington D.C. to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Special thanks to **Congressman John Larson**, shown above with Andrea at the Connecticut delegation's reception in D.C., who gave her tickets to the historic event.



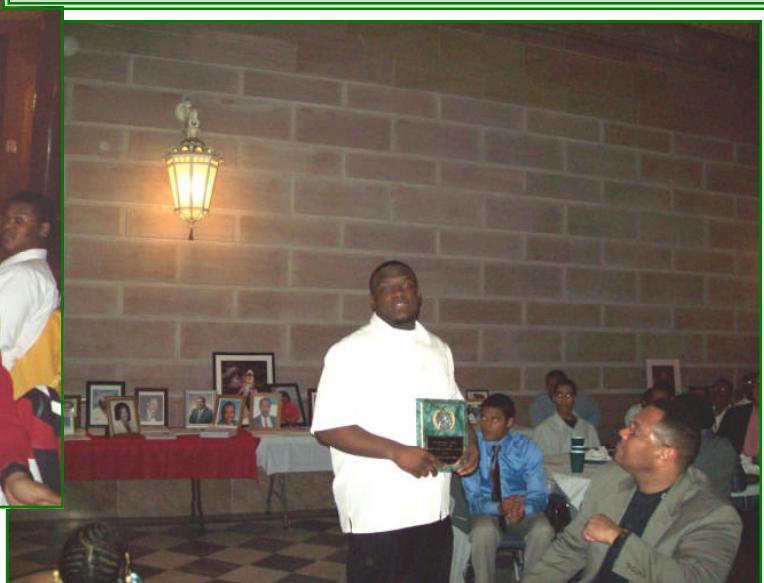
**Habitat for Humanity** has been helping to rebuild Hartford's neighborhoods for decades. In January, Habitat celebrated its accomplishments and laid the foundation for future efforts at their annual meeting held at The Hartford Club. Above, Councilman Ritter talks neighborhood development with New Britain **Mayor Timothy Stewart**. New Britain has also benefited from Habitat's efforts. For more information on Habitat for Humanity, call 860-541-2208.

## Go Weaver Beavers!!!



Weaver High School's football team, better known as the Beavers, had an incredible season this year. Despite a roster of only 25 players, the team made it to the state semi-finals. On February 13, 2009, Councilman Ritter recognized the team and its cheerleaders with a celebratory banquet held in City Hall.

Coach Robert Fleeting, (above), was presented with a proclamation for his years of service to the school. Team leader and senior Tayquan Ford, (below), played fullback, offensive guard, defensive lineman, and linebacker this season, and was recognized for his selection as an All-State player. Special thanks to Hartford Health and Human Services Director Carlos Rivera and Kathy Lilley from Aetna for their help in sponsoring this event.



Councilman Matthew D. Ritter  
550 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06103

(860) 757-9565

Let us know what you think!  
[comea001@hartford.gov](mailto:comea001@hartford.gov)

## THE ECONOMY AND OUR SENIORS

In February, Councilman Ritter visited the residents of Avery Heights as part of their Winter 2009 Senior Seminar Series. This month's discussion, "How Does the Economic Recession Affect Me?" gave Matt an opportunity to review the city's budget deficit and its potential impact on city services. Councilman Ritter listened to seniors concerns that trash and snow removal could be impacted if the City lays off too many workers. Residents were also concerned about fees for services such as Dial-a-Ride. Matt noted that pushing for equitable funding of PILOT (Payments In Lieu Of Taxes) would help the City offset some of its tax burden. A PILOT is made to compensate a local government for some or all of the tax revenue that it loses because of the nature of the ownership or use of a property. It usually relates to property tax revenue.

### Did You Know?

Betances School is named for **Ramon Emeterio Betances**, leader of the 1868 revolt against Spanish rule in Puerto Rico.

## DEDICATION FOR A COMMUNITY HERO



From Garden Street to The Hartford Club, **Richard Weaver-Bey** was known as a community leader. His towering height and the depth of his voice were matched only by the size of his heart and generosity. When Weaver-Bey died in May of 2008, there was consensus among the city's elected officials that his name and legacy should live on forever. In January, Councilman Ritter joined the Weaver-Bey family, **Mayor Eddie A. Perez** and **Majority Leader Jo Winch** to dedicate the corner of Garden Street and Albany Avenue in Weaver-Bey's name. Weaver-Bey developed affordable housing in the city and beyond, but was equally known for his philanthropic efforts on behalf of various nonprofits. He took over Greater Hartford Realty Management after running a division of the company in 1970.