

Hartford

New England's Rising StarSM

WINTER 2008



Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

The Mayor's UPDATE



I am honored and humbled by the trust you have placed in me to serve as your Mayor for another four years. Together, we have ushered in a new era of hope, inclusiveness and progress. You can see and touch the accomplishments in every neighborhood. There's new housing, retail, and schools. Crime is down to historic lows, our school system is aggressively raising academic standards, and our neighborhoods display pride with new streetscapes and businesses.

We cannot afford to rest on these achievements. I invite the cooperation of residents, businesses and elected officials to bring our communities together,

create more opportunities for our residents, increase business development, and build a brighter future for our children.

I pledge to continue our positive momentum. We must invest in our neighborhoods by reducing blight. Any new development in our city must include good jobs with good wages and healthcare for Hartford residents.

We must continue to chart a bold new course in our school system. We are pursuing a reform plan that connects kids to college and the 21st Century workplace. We're creating smaller class sizes, giving parents more choice, and holding our school system accountable for results.

We must also concentrate on fighting to fix the broken property tax system in our state, and working with neighboring towns on a regional transportation system that links the Busway with the airport and rail service in a seamless fashion.

Together we have accomplished so much, and together we will accomplish much more. **Yes We Can Hartford! ¡Si Se Puede!**

Sincerely,

Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

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LOWEST CRIME RATE IN 30 YEARS

Hartford crime is at a historic low. Mayor Eddie Perez and Chief Daryl Roberts say Hartford is a safer city today than it has been in decades.

The Mayor says, "Public Safety is a top priority. There were 1,600 fewer serious crimes last year than in 2006. That's a decrease of 15.5%. It is important that residents continue to work with the brave men and women of the HPD to further reduce crime in all of our neighborhoods."



Community Policing Works! Mayor Perez walks with Officers Dwane Tine and Marisol Rodriguez-Velez as they meet residents in the Clay Arsenal neighborhood. The Year End Public Safety Report shows 17,000 fewer crimes since 1981.

In recent years, the FBI has focused on the national increase of violent crime – murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Hartford has bucked that trend, with overall violent crimes decreasing more than 6%. **Together, we can do more by getting illegal guns off our streets!**



Hartford School Shines!

Sport and Medical Sciences Academy is on the America's Best High Schools List, according to U.S. News and World Report. In September, this top performing school will move into a new, state-of-the-art facility on Huyshope Avenue in the Sheldon-Charter Oak neighborhood.

MAYOR PEREZ NAMING HEALTH INSURANCE TASK FORCE

Hartford must be a city where there is fair and equal access to affordable health-care. About 34,000 uninsured people live in Hartford. To address this, The Mayor's Healthy Communities Initiative was developed to help the uninsured find a medical home. But without government expanding funds to HUSKY and similar programs, we cannot reach enough people and we cannot afford to wait.

Mayor Perez wants healthcare providers, insurers, and medical experts to team up

and report back this summer on how the city can partner with the private sector to provide affordable insurance for working families who are not eligible for federal or state programs.

This will not replace the need for comprehensive reform on the national level. **Mayor Perez says, "As a caring community, we must explore all options to give our residents the additional security and hope they deserve."**

HARTFORD IS OPEN *for Business!*

Attracting new development is essential to Hartford's economic health. This year, the City will make its first investment from our Neighborhood Development Fund by targeting some of Hartford's most stubborn blight.

Mayor Perez says, "It is critical that we tie-in our neighborhoods to development Downtown. In the coming months, I will unveil a plan for the area that stretches from the empty Clarion Hotel on Constitution Plaza to Myrtle Street in Asylum Hill. We must begin to prepare for new investment."



New family businesses, like Trinity Restaurant in the Behind the Rocks neighborhood, and big business alike, must be able to call Hartford home.

There's a renewed sense of pride in our city. You can see new streetscapes and banners in every neighborhood.

Mayor Perez says, "We must continue to grow Hartford. Any discussion of development needs to address the future of the Civic Center (XL Center). In 2013 – in five

short years – that building once again will belong to us. With input from the city, region, and state, we can devise a plan for a state-of-the-art facility that will meet the needs of Connecticut for decades to come. And, of course, **any new development must include good jobs with good wages and healthcare for Hartford residents!**

★★★★★ **WATCH THE DVD** ★★★★★

"HARTFORD: As Strong As Its People"
on the new and improved www.hartford.gov!

More than 600 copies have been distributed and this is just part of the City's new marketing effort to attract more redevelopment and investment!

Hartford Celebrates...



Our History!

Coltsville is on its way to becoming a National Historic Landmark. Mayor Perez says, "History will be preserved and so will the spirit of innovation as we forge ahead with future plans while maintaining the integrity of this national treasure!"

Our Parks!

Mayor Perez, DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy, and Majority Leader rjo Winch congratulate members of Leadership Greater Hartford for helping to revitalize an urban hiking trail in Keney Park. Mayor Perez says, "Let's celebrate our parks, which are part of our historic past and our vibrant future." The City will encourage more residents to "adopt-a-park."



Our Libraries!

Renovations at the main branch of the Hartford Public Library are complete! Come experience the power of knowledge and technology for yourself! Join the more than 9,000 new users who log on to "Wireless Hartford" at <http://www.hartford.gov/wifi>



I N T H E C I T Y O F H A R T F O R D



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For Emergencies Call



311 757-9311
For Everything Else Call

WINTER 2008

HARTFORD: *The City of Hope and Opportunity!*

Photo Courtesy: Andy Hart



A new era of optimism was ushered at the Inaugural Ball. Mayor Perez's Rising Stars of Hartford, a 501 ©3 organization, raised \$20,000 at "The People's Ball" and all proceeds benefit youth programs and families in Hartford. To see more photos by Rob Thompson and Jeffrey Teitler, please visit our new and improved website: www.hartford.gov



Be an Ambassador of Hartford! **SHOW YOUR PRIDE!**

