

May 22, 2009

EDDIE A. PEREZ MAYOR

Hon. Calixto Torres President, Court of Common Council 550 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut

RE: VETO OF CERTAIN COUNCIL BUDGET RESOLOUTIONS

#### Dear Councilman Torres:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Chapter IV Sec.7(4) (ii) and Chapter X Sec.5 and other applicable sections of the Charter of The City of Hartford, I hereby veto and reduce a number of the Council budget resolutions adopted at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Additionally, I have reduced my proposed budget by \$6.1 million. I urge you to move quickly to support my proposed reductions to the budget and sustain my vetoes and reductions.

As you know, I am deeply disturbed by the reckless cuts that have been proposed by some members of Council. These cuts will directly harm our neighborhoods, by slashing job creation programs, removing as many as 70 police officers from our streets, gutting foreclosure assistance and jeopardizing our "A" bond rating. Further, the Council cuts to the Board of Education budget will cause serious harm to the progress we have made in education. At the same time the Council is slashing police and other core city services, the Council has increased its own budget by **sixty-two percent** (\$350,000). It defies belief that the City Council in these difficult times would create a budget that put its own needs before public safety, job creation, homeownership and education. I do not believe the people of Hartford would support the values and priorities laid out in the budget Council has proposed.

I have vetoed a number of portions of the Council budget. However, I would like to highlight some of the items that deserved Council support:

- Cutting the Board of Education by \$3 million. This cut undermines the significant progress we have made in student achievement by removing instructional resources from the classroom.
- <u>Slashing the Police Department by \$500,000</u>. Not only does this cut take officers off the street it disqualifies the city from receiving funding for 40 officers from federal stimulus funds.

550 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut 06103 Phone (860) 543-8500 Fax (860) 722-6606



- <u>Laying Off 120 City Employees Including Police</u>. By directing \$6.4 million in additional payroll cuts, no less than 120 employees will be laid off including police officers.
- <u>Chopping \$600,000 from the Arts Job Creation Program.</u> This cut means as many as 70 fewer Hartford jobs will be created through the Arts Jobs program. This is the wrong time to block job creation.
- Eliminating the Home Foreclosure Assistance Program. In difficult times, we want to keep families facing foreclosure in their homes. By cutting the foreclosure assistance program Council has cut an important lifeline for our homeowners.

My vetoes and reductions have brought my proposed budget down by \$6.1 million while still maintaining public safety, and supporting homeownership, education and job creation. Further, I believe that it is still possible that city unions will come forward to offer concessions of at least \$3.2 million to help relieve the financial burden on the city in the near term. I believe it is imperative the Council act to adopt this responsible budget and keep our city government working to make our city better for all who live and work here.

I also would like to remind you that the Council has an obligation to pass a budget by the end of this month. Failure to act will result in last year's expense budget going into effect plus all increases in debt service, pension and contractual expenses. Further, we will use current revenue estimates to determine the mil rate. The resulting budget will be considerably higher than \$547 million and the mil rate increase could be as high as sixteen mils.

The following attached items have been vetoed and/or reduced:

CT1 CT2 Boucher-3 Ritter 1 Ritter 13 KHK 10	Ritter 4 Ritter 14	CT5 CT6  Airey- Ritter 5 Ritter 15	-Wilson 3 Ritter 8 Ritter 16	CT9 Deutsch 1 Ritter 11 KHK2	Boucher-1a Deutsch2/CT3 Ritter12 KHK6
KHK10 Boucher-1	KHK14	COTTO-17	COTTO-19	COTTO-20	COTTO-30

I have also made the following reductions to my proposed budget through the following attached items:

MAYOR 34 MAYOR 35 MAYOR 36

All other financial resolutions I have received are approved.

Edd Doll

Mayor

## MAYOR-1 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution CT1 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a reduction in the amount of \$1,500,000 from the Foreclosure Program/ Mayor's Community Initiative." 822 — Non-Operating Department Expenditures.

I am vetoing this resolution because of my belief that Hartford's homeowners at threat for foreclosure sorely need this assistance.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

#### INTRODUCED BY

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

## MAYOR-2 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution CT2 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a reduction in the amount of \$3,000,000 from 711-Education."

I am vetoing this resolution because it is crucial that we maintain the hard-fought progress we have made in our school system. This reduction may result in even more staff reductions that currently planned in our schools.

## MAYOR-3 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution CT3 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a city-wide reduction in the amount of \$6,400,000 from Regular Salaries & Fringe Benefits which could be offset by concessions achieved through the city unions."

I am vetoing this resolution because of the disastrous effect it would have on city staff and services, potentially resulting in over 120 layoffs. While it is my sincere hope that our city unions will help us to avoid such layoffs through concessions, I cannot in good conscience incorporate this sizeable cut in the city budget.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-4 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution CT-4 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a reduction in the amount of \$600,000 from Arts Jobs Initiative / Hartford Arts Council 822 Non-Operating Department Expenditures."

I am vetoing this resolution because of the potential for the creation of good jobs for Hartford residents.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

## MAYOR-5 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution CT-5 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a reduction in the amount of \$1,500,000 from Settlement(s) Account 822-Non-Operating Department Expenditures."

In lieu of said proposed reduction, I hereby reduce the Settlements Account in 822 (Non-Operating Department Expenditures) by \$500,000.

I am vetoing resolution CT-5 because the remaining amount proposed will be insufficient to cover settlement expenses expected during the coming fiscal year.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

## MAYOR-6 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution CT-6 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a reduction in the amount of \$800,000 from Metro Hartford Information Services (MHIS) Client Services Technology 822-Non-Operating Department Expenditures."

In lieu of said proposed reduction, I hereby reduce the Client Services Technology Account in 822 (Non-Operating Department Expenditures) by \$400,000.

I am vetoing resolution CT-6 because the proposed reduction would result in loss of employees and because of the fixed costs for technology.

# MAYOR-7 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution CT7 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect an increase in the amount of \$100,000 for outside Counsel"

And I hereby reduce said increase to \$50,000 in the Court of Common Council's budget on page 9-2.

# MAYOR-8 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution CT-8 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a reduction in the amount of \$1,250,000 from Electricity."

In lieu of said proposed reduction, I hereby reduce the Utilities Account in 822 (Non-Operating Department Expenditures) by \$250,000.

I am vetoing resolution CT-8 because, while we will do our best to economize, given the rising costs of electricity and the time required to retrofit our facilities, savings in this amount cannot be realized.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-9 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution CT-9 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a reduction in the amount of \$650,000 for Legal Services. 822-Non-Operating Department Expenditures."

I am vetoing this resolution because history tells us that it is impractical to reduce this account so severely.

# COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-10 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution Boucher-1a dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that \$75,000 be decreased from the Mayor's Office, with a decrease of \$75,000 from Constituent Services/3-1-1 Call Center (8-3)."

I am vetoing this resolution because Council does not have the legal authority to target specific positions when proposing funding cuts. In addition, these employees have already agreed to four (4) furlough days and increased health insurance contributions.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-11 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution Boucher-3 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that section 38-4 Non-Operating Department Expenditures, Payment to Government Agencies to the Business Improvement District of the 09-10 budget be increased by the \$20,000."

I am vetoing this resolution because of our current fiscal crisis.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-12 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution Airey-Wilson 2 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 21, 2008 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a reduction in the Vehicle Replacement Budget in the amount of \$500,000. (38-3)"

I am vetoing this resolution because these funds are obligated by contractual leases.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-13 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution Airey-Wilson 3 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 21, 2008 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To reflect a reduction in the Contingency Reserve in the amount of \$350,000 and be it further (resolved that the) line item (known) as the Contingency (Reserve) be move(d) to the Court of C.C. (Common Council) Budget."

In lieu of said proposed reduction, I hereby reduce the Contingency Reserve Account in 822 (Non-Operating Department Expenditures) by \$552,500.

# MAYOR-14 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution Deutsch 1 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that (1) million dollars be taken from the UNALLOCATED FUND BALANCE for operating expenses."

I am vetoing this resolution because we should avoid diminishing the unallocated fund balance to safeguard our bond rating.

## MAYOR-15 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution DEUTSCH 2/CT3 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"To reflect a citywide reduction in the amount of \$6,100,000 from Regular Salaries & Fringe Benefits, that there shall be an aggregated reduction of \$300,000 of combined salaries and benefit cost from non-unionized employees with salaries above \$80,000, including mayoral employees, in addition to concessions already granted in this category."

I am vetoing this resolution because of the disastrous effect it would have on city staff and services, potentially resulting in over 120 layoffs. In addition, \$549,863 in concessions has been taken from non-unionized employees including 4 furlough days in Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-16 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution Ritter 1 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Corporation Counsel's Office be increased by \$90,376 for purposes of hiring an attorney specialized in the field of tax law."

I am vetoing this resolution because of our current fiscal crisis.

# MAYOR-17 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution RITTER 4 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Hartford Police Department budget be reduced by \$500,000."

I am vetoing this resolution because of serious consequences that would result in potential layoffs of 20 officers (over and above expected attrition), as well as putting our ability to receive stimulus funding from the federal government in jeopardy.

# COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-18 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution RITTER 5 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Legislative Services line item listed in 38-5 of the Mayor's Recommended Budget Fiscal Year 2009-2010 be reduced by \$80,000."

I am vetoing this resolution because of the competitive climate that exists at both the State and Federal level for grant funding.

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## MAYOR-19 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution RITTER 8 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Special Events line item as listed in 38-2 of the Mayor's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 be reduced by \$100,000."

In lieu of said proposed reduction, I hereby reduce the Special Events Overtime Account on page 38-2 in 822 (Non-Operating Department Expenditures) by \$50,000.

I am vetoing resolution RITTER 8 because such reduction would only negatively impact the ability of our departments to cover expenses associated with Special Events.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-20 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution RITTER 11 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, That the Office of Human Relations no longer be responsible for Contract Compliance and Enforcement; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Office of Human Relations be reduced by \$234,335; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Office of Human Relations without the responsibility of Contract Compliance and Enforcement is left with a remaining budget of \$530,880 and that 10 percent of that budget shall be reduced for a decrease of \$53,088. Accordingly, the new Office of Human Relations budget shall be a total of \$477,792."

I am vetoing this resolution because it would be ill-advised to make such a drastic change without a full understanding of the impact of such a change on legal and contractual compliance with State and Federal laws and mandates.

## MAYOR-21 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution RITTER 12 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Department of Development Services now be responsible for Contract Compliance and Enforcement; and be it further RESOLVED, That there be an increase in the Department of Development Services of \$133,847 for said purposes."

I am vetoing this resolution because, based upon my veto of RITTER 11, it is unnecessary.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

## MAYOR-22 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution RITTER-13 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, That the Office of Corporation Counsel be increased by \$60,000 which shall cover the cost of hiring a claims investigator, who shall provide investigative services for citizen complaints and other related responsibilities."

I am vetoing this resolution because such a reduction would be counter to the spirit of Cintron v. Vaughn and to the agreement the City made to the judge in that case to provide adequate funding for the Civilian Police Review Board, including funding for experienced and licensed independent investigators that report directly to the Board. We have made much progress over the past few years to reduce the backlog of civilian complaints against police, and I cannot support retreating from our commitment in that area.

# MAYOR-23 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution RITTER-14 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, That the Contract Compliance line item as listed in 38-5 of the Mayor's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 be reduced by \$200,000."

See the explanation under Mayor-22.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-24 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution RITTER-15 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, That the Hartford Public Library budget be increased by \$125,000 and that said increase in dollars be used to open library branches on Saturdays and for more hours after-school."

I am vetoing this resolution in part because it was not requested by the Library Board or leadership. In light of the cuts to the City and Board of Education budgets, it would be unfair to increase the Library budget.

## MAYOR-25 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution RITTER-16 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, That the Office of Youth Services budget be reduced by \$50,000."

I am vetoing this resolution because of the progress we have made, particularly in the Peacebuilders program. Such a reduction would have a negative effect on that program and the other programs developed by the Office of Youth Services.

# MAYOR-26 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution KHK2 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To eliminate the Legislative and Community Initiatives in the amount of \$197,670.00. Council Staff will assist the administration with any community initiatives."

I am vetoing this resolution because the staff in this division is critical to city communications and special events. In addition, the city is contractually required to provide a staff person under our agreement with Hartford Cable Access Television.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

## MAYOR-27 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution KHK6 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To eliminate Deputy Finance Director Position code 0325 as one Deputy Director is sufficient in the amount of \$110,284.00."

I am vetoing this resolution because City Council does not have the legal authority to target any specific position for elimination. Council authority is restricted to specific items enumerated within the Mayor's Recommended Budget as submitted on April 20, 2009. In addition, the Finance department has been understaffed for some time and both Deputies work in operational as well as managerial functions.

# MAYOR-28 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution KHK 10 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: To eliminate the vacant Project Manager Position code 2025 in the amount of \$77,534.00 520-Health & Human Services."

I am vetoing this resolution because City Council does not have the legal authority to target any specific position for elimination. Council authority is restricted to specific items enumerated within the Mayor's Recommended Budget as submitted on April 20, 2009. In addition, this position is no longer vacant and is critical to the accounting function in the Health & Human Services Department.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-29 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution KHK 14 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Budget as submitted by the Mayor on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows: Graphics and Mail services should be performed in-house and reduced to the amount of \$265,790. 128-Management & Budget"

I am vetoing this resolution because there will be insufficient funding for printing of tax bills and other governmental publications and a reduction in positions.

# MAYOR-30 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution COTTO-17 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that \$65,639 is reduced from the vacant Principal Account (ant) account (position 0314) from Accounting and Control within the Finance Department."

I am vetoing this resolution because City Council does not have the legal authority to target any specific position for elimination. Council authority is restricted to specific items enumerated within the Mayor's Recommended Budget as submitted on April 20, 2009. In addition, the Finance department has been understaffed for some time and needs this critical position to be filled.

# MAYOR-31 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution COTTO-19 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that \$67,484 is reduced from the vacant Asset Manager/Financial Systems Manager account (position 0370) from Revenue Management within the Finance Department."

I am vetoing this resolution because City Council does not have the legal authority to target any specific position for elimination. Council authority is restricted to specific items enumerated within the Mayor's Recommended Budget as submitted on April 20, 2009. In addition, the Finance department has been understaffed for some time and needs this critical position to be filled.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

# MAYOR-32 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution COTTO-20 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that \$71,860 is reduced from one (1) Principal Planner account (position 2018) from Planning within the Department of Development Services."

I am vetoing this resolution because City Council does not have the legal authority to target any specific position for elimination. Council authority is restricted to specific items enumerated within the Mayor's Recommended Budget as submitted on April 20, 2009. In addition, the Planning division has been understaffed for some time and has a critical need for this position to be filled. Also, I anticipate that funding for this position will be offset by revenue from the Capital Improvements Program or grant funding.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

## MAYOR-33 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution COTTO-30 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, That the Office of Cultural Affairs (Culturan Affairs program, 27-4 in the Mayor's Recommended Budget as submitted April 20, 2009) is moved from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Development Services. This reflects a transfer of \$218,426 from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Development Services."

While I am vetoing this resolution, I am more than willing to explore this proposal with the involvement and participation of the author and the respective department directors.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL City of Hartford, May 22, 2009

Mayor Eddie A. Perez

## MAYOR-34

RESOLVED, That the Budget as submitted on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows:

• To reflect a reduction in the amount of \$3,200,000 in citywide salaries and benefits which amount could be offset by union concessions.

## MAYOR-35

RESOLVED, That the Budget as submitted on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows:

• To reflect a reduction of \$300,000 in the City Contributions and Special Events Account 822 Non-Operating Department on page 38-3

#### MAYOR-36

RESOLVED, That the Budget as submitted on April 20, 2009 be, and hereby is, amended as follows:

• To reflect a reduction of \$273,000 in the City Council Program on page 9-2.

# MAYOR-37 VETO

I hereby veto Financial Resolution BOUCHER-1 dated May 19, 2009 that reads:

"RESOLVED, that the Council requests that the Mayor reflect in the 09-10 budget an adjustment that would correct an otherwise \$300,000 decrease to HPA by offsetting this with up to \$300,000 in revenue that the Hartford Parking Authority director projected as additional revenue for the upcoming year."

I have attached a copy of a letter from the HPA Executive Director clarifying that there is no additional revenue.



**BOARD MEMBERS** 

May 21, 2009

Patricia LeShane Chairperson

Richard Twilley, Esq. Vice Chair & Treasurer

James Thompson, Jr.
Commissioner

Albert L. Barrueco, Esq. Commissioner

**EXECUTIVE STAFF** 

James J. Kopencey Executive Director

Carey Redd, II Associate Director

John Michalik Chief Financial Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES 155 Morgan Street Hartford, CT 06103 Phone (860) 527-7275 Fax (860) 549-7275

www.hartfordparking.com

Mr. Lee Erdmann Chief Operating Officer City of Hartford City Hall 550 Main St.

Re: Modifications to Hartford Parking Authority Budget

Dear Mr. Erdmann:

Hartford, CT 06103

It has come to our attention that a proposed revision to the Hartford Parking Authority's (HPA) budget has been suggested which would elevate our income projections by \$300,000 beyond what we calculated. Given the current parking climate in the Central Business District, and based on known facts, it is the Authority's belief that we cannot meet that number.

It should be clear that no representative from the (HPA) suggested to any individual or body that there would be cause for optimism to assume \$300,000 in additional parking income for the upcoming fiscal year.

We continue to stand by the budget assumptions that we submitted to the Mayor and presented before the City Council. Furthermore, the HPA believes that its budget is a true and correct representation of the facts as we know them, and a real portrayal of the income and expenses that can currently be foreseen for FY 2009/2010.

Sincerely,

James J. Kopencey Executive Director