



May 5, 2009

Hon. Eddie A. Perez
Mayor City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

In Reply to: Your e-mail of May 1, 2009

Dear Mayor Perez:

We are in receipt of your letters to the individual Union Bargaining Units of April 30, 2009. As we stated in the public hearing, the Coalition stands ready to be a partner in finding solutions to the claimed budgetary crisis. However, your letters are not an invitation to be a partner, they come to us at least six months too late. They are too restrictive in their scope; they do not come with the information necessary to help make reasoned suggestions; and they come with too short a deadline. Two and half days is insufficient time for us to discuss and devise reasoned solutions to the difficulties that your administration has created and the City Council now faces¹.

Had we been provided with transparent needed fiscal, revenue, and cost information after your only requested meeting in Feb 2009 and prior to your submission of your recommended budget to City Council, we would have had an opportunity in coming to well-reasoned conclusions regarding the actual state of the city's financial situation.

Certainly, your administration has not been blind-sided by the current state of affairs. With proper planning and leadership, particularly in the areas of job preservation and job creation consistent with President Obama's message of efficiency in government. Had you genuinely wished to hear from us, you would have heeded your tax task force recommendation to begin dialogue with us prior to Feb 2009; and you would have engaged in more than just the one meeting you requested with us in February 2009.

Further, we believe that your attempt at solving fiscal deficits is far too narrow. In your only meeting with City Unions in Feb 2009 your request was for \$6 to 8 million in savings. You are now requiring a \$30.8 million gap closure from us in the immediate term with parameters that restrict solutions from any other area except personnel and benefits costs. Additionally, allocating

¹ In accordance with Municipal Charter Chapter X Sec.5

Hartford Public Services Coalition

Hon. Eddie A. Perez
Page 2
May 5, 2009

savings on a percentage basis between personnel costs and other costs based upon proportions found in the current budget appears to be illogical. Savings should and must be sought in each line item of the budget regardless of its proportionate share of the budget.

In the future, we would be glad to provide our input to you, if it would be productive to do so, and requested in a timely fashion

Respectfully,
Hartford Public Services Coalition Members

CHPEA CSEA SEIU Local 2001
President Elizabeth Kavanah

Council 4 AFSCME Local 1716
President Clarke King

School Crossing Guards Association
President Donna Thompson-Daniel

HMEA Association
President Rhonda Carroll-Moniz

Hartford Police Union
President Richard Rodriguez Jr.

Hartford Small Business Alliance
Hon. John O'Connell, Secretary



Hon. Eddie A. Perez
Page 3
May 5, 2009

CC:

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Hon. R.Jo Winch, Majority Leader
Hon. James Boucher, Asst. Majority Leader
Hon. Larry Deutch, Minority Leader
Hon. Veronica Airey Wilson
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Hon. Kenneth Kennedy
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