

Court of Common Council

CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103



July 20, 2009

Honorable Calixto Torres, President
Court of Common Council &
Honorable Eddie A. Perez, Mayor
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Mr. President & Mr. Mayor:

The Operations, Management & Budget committee has held two meetings to discuss the 3rd quarter report for FY 08-09 as it relates to the budget deficit to analyze the effects on the FY 09-10. During these meetings some department heads were not present although the chair of this committee was assured by Mr. Erdmann that they would be available for the last OMB Committee meeting. Members of this committee have expressed concerns in reference to the City's real financial situation for the 3rd and 4th quarters. The City of Hartford faces a dreadful fiscal problem brought on by the failure of the administration to abide by the City Charter's revenue and expenditure mandates. In order to resolve the deficit we must be able to evaluate, comprehend, and commit to resolve it. We must accept the responsibility of this challenge and search for solutions that are wise and fair to preserve essential and critical public services.

The City Charter requires that the budget be balanced, yet the administration has failed to meet this requirement during the last two fiscal years. The administration has been either unable or reluctant to provide this committee with an accurate update on the financial status of its budget for 2008-2009. The failure to provide this information clearly violates the City Charter and this is absolutely unacceptable.

The Charter thus obligates the City Court of Common Council to use all its power, including the power of subpoena, to determine and to identify the parties responsible for violating our Charter and for putting our City in a greater economic peril. The Council

can and should hold off paying millions of dollar in deficits until it fully investigated and determine how this occurred to prevent the same situation in the future.

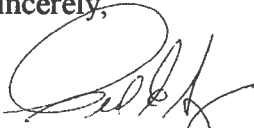
We should not just spend the rainy day fund, in its place we must essentially evaluate how the City operates. Hartford can prosper and come out of this crisis stronger, but this can only happen if we work together to set priorities, to plan for the future, to collaborate in trust and honesty to preserve essential services and as many jobs as possible.

Pending assurance in writing from the administration of department heads and others attending the OMB committee meeting this committee postponed action on the following items:

1. Communication from Mayor Perez, with accompanying resolution de authorization for a fourth quarter transfer for Registrars of Voters.
2. Ordinance concerning an appropriation in the capital improvement fund for improvements and renovations at the Southend Senior Center.
3. Ordinance concerning an appropriation in the capital improvement fund for improvements and renovations at the Hyland Park
4. 3rd Quarterly Report Revision

Our next OMB committee meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2009

Sincerely,



Councilman Pedro E. Segarra, Chair
Operations and Management & Budget Committee