



Waterbury Regional Chamber
2017 Municipal Agenda For the City of Waterbury



Photo Courtesy of The Waterbury Observer

Municipal Agenda for the City of Waterbury 2017

Mayor

Neil M. O'Leary

Director of Operations

Joseph Geary

Chief Advisor to the Mayor

George D'Agostino

Economic Development Director

Joseph McGrath

Corporation Counsel

Linda Wihbey, Esq.



Board of Aldermen, by District

1st District:

Ernest M. Brunelli, (D)
Paul V. Ciochetti, (D-Majority Leader)
Jerry Padula, (R)

2nd District:

Francis Guerrero, (R)
Gregory A. Hadley, (D)
Victor Lopez, Jr., (D)

3rd District:

Steven Giacomi, (R-Minority Leader)
Ronald A. Napoli, Jr.,
(D-President Pro Tempore)
Paul Pernerewski, Jr., (D-President)

4th District:

Rep. Stephanie E. Cummings, (R)
Michael DiGiovancarlo, (D)
Jetlir Kulla, (D)

5th District:

Brenda L. Cotto, (D)
Sandra Martinez-McCarthy, (D)
Roger L. Sherman, Jr., (R)



Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business

Dear Member,

The Waterbury Regional Chamber is committed to the future of Waterbury as a premier place to live, work, invest and conduct business. The Chamber is proud of its strong record of success working in partnership with the City's administration to move Waterbury forward.

The Chamber's Municipal Agenda for 2017 focuses on issues that are important not only to the business community, but to the Greater Waterbury community at large. Our priorities are in the areas of fiscal management, city governance, economic development and public education. These are vital components to the economic and social wellbeing of our city during these challenging economic times. Through this focus we can position ourselves to become a strong, viable location for continued business and job development. Through marketing and ongoing solicitation, developers and businesses continue to express a great deal of interest in working collaboratively with the city, Waterbury Development Corporation and Main Street Waterbury.

We also continue to focus on assuring that neighborhoods, neighborhood businesses, and commerce and industry remain engaged partners in Waterbury's future.

By establishing Waterbury as a highly desirable business location, one that is responsive to the needs of the business community, we are building a foundation for future growth and investment that will benefit both businesses and the community, enhance Waterbury's value and image, and facilitate economic development initiatives.

Sincerely,

Donald C. McPartland, ESQ.
Public Policy Vice Chair
Moore, O'Brien & Foti

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Fiscal Control and City Management

The Chamber continues to steadfastly support responsible and transparent fiscal oversight, prudent fiscal measures and the effective financial management processes that have rebuilt accountability and performance standards for all city departments. We expect the administration to maintain the gains made in recent years and to remain committed to the goals of prudent financial management that benefits residents and businesses alike.

Sound financial management and accountability, paired with prudent public investment, are essential components of projecting a positive and stable environment for growth. The Chamber will work with the city to continue to identify appropriate governmental reforms. We urge the administration to ensure that the city continues to reduce its pension liabilities, and that all employee obligations are reported in a transparent fashion.



Economic Development

The Waterbury Regional Chamber supports initiatives and programs that seek to expand the commercial and industrial value of the grand list. Business growth and capital expansion in Waterbury requires a commitment to achieving and maintaining a reasonable tax rate that enables existing businesses to remain, thrive and grow here, and attracts new business investment and jobs.

The City must continue to support the following:

- Policies that promote job creation.
- Brownfields revitalization legislation at the state level, including the proposed brownfields land bank, and leveraging state and federal brownfields revitalization funds to prepare sites in the city for development.
- Highlighting and promoting the leverage gained by the Grants Office and expanding its ability to leverage future grant funding and opportunities on projects throughout Waterbury, especially capital improvements.
- Completing the Multimodal Regional Transportation Center project
- Finding a cost-effective solution to relocating the bus pulse point from the Green.
- Encouraging and prioritizing state and federal monies to complete the improvements to I-84 through Waterbury and western Connecticut.
- Prioritizing recommended safety improvements to the I-84/Route 8 interchange (the Mixmaster), while monitoring the design process for rebuilding the interchange to ensure it incorporates an economic impact analysis and supports the city's strategic plan for economic development.
- Aggressively working with private and public partners to rehabilitate underutilized and abandoned spaces in the city to increase the inventory of industrial and commercial space available to optimize potential tax revenues and economic development.
- The efforts and initiatives of the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board to meet the workforce training needs of local businesses and manufacturers, which will help reduce the city's unemployment rate.
- Efforts of the Waterbury Greenway and Loyola Development.
- Partnering with the Waterbury Development Corporation and Main Street Waterbury in their efforts to revitalize the city and the downtown business district.
- Support the Mattatuck Museum's request for state bond funding to renovate and expand its historic building on the Waterbury Green.
- Supporting the effort to win the Innovation Places Implementation Grant.

Public Education

The public school system is a critical component of economic growth and development. Public education produces our future business leaders and employees. Apart from the intrinsic benefits of creating opportunities for students, improving the public schools helps maintain property values, retains and attracts residents committed to enhancing education, and supports business investment and growth in Waterbury through a skilled and ready workforce. Together, we will continue the dialogue on the state of public education to chart a course for continued value improvement.

The city must continue to support the following:

- The open and ongoing dialogue with the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to ensure student learning targets are reached.
- Building upon expanding the neighborhood school concept to families and school communities, in order to create strong, engaged and education-committed neighborhoods.
- Leveraging a marketing/public relations campaign with broad-based support promoting Waterbury, including the opportunity to market the city's public school system as the home of the 2016 National Teacher of the Year, Jahana Hayes.
- Expanding the Robotics program to all of the city's public high schools and middle schools, as well as to the fifth-grade level.
- Integration of electronic tablet technology (such as iPads or Chromebooks) to improve the delivery of curriculum and learning experiences for district students.

Improving Waterbury's Image

The business community is committed to continually building and improving the image of Waterbury as a desirable environment and location for businesses and consumers. The Chamber has built a committed partnership with the city and we remain committed to that partnership.

The city must continue to support the following:

- Sustaining comprehensive marketing efforts for internal stakeholders and external target markets that enhance Waterbury's image and facilitates economic development initiatives, such as the Waterbury NEXT initiative, which is designed to attract significant private investment in the city to encourage economic development and job creation. Likewise, the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (WATER) project is designed to reform and revitalize the city's landscape. These initiatives showcase the city's ability to move forward on key projects that will increase the quality of life and attract new investment and jobs, and should be utilized in strategic marketing efforts.
- Continuing to improve city services and the value provided by departments promoting ownership and pride in what Waterbury offers every day.
- Continuing and, when possible, expanding the Waterbury Police Department's community policing program.



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Public Policy Committee

Public Policy Committee

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