

Mayor Bronin's Town Hall Meeting



On Tuesday evening Mayor Bronin concluded his recent tour of Town Hall meetings on the budget at the 224 EcoSpace on Farmington Ave with several dozen citizens. He began by laying out the fundamental problem as he has done so many times before; Hartford does not have sufficient revenue sources to meet the costs of the services that a Capitol City needs to provide. It has been a longstanding problem made worse by decades of neglect. He lists nearly a dozen of the non-taxed properties in Hartford that benefit the region, everything from the State Capitol Buildings, the hospitals and colleges to the MDC and the CRRA, the regional trash burning facility that serves 70 local towns. All of these contribute to the 50% of Hartford's non-taxed property that still must be supported by all of the city services that the rest of the City receives.

He also acknowledges that there have been instances of mismanagement, most recently, the Dillon stadium fiasco that cost the City \$2 million, but all of the mismanagement combined does not approach the \$50 million shortfall that is Hartford's annual problem. He then reminded us of the deep cuts to the City's budget intended to show the regions towns and the State that the City is doing it's part to rein in spending.

The mayor then took questions that ranged from how to support a man who is building electric cars in Hartford (news to the mayor) to supporting small commercial businesses (promoting the successes), taxing hospitals, pensions, bankruptcy, 169 town governments, the State fiscal crisis and more.

The engagement of those present was encouraging and the tone was genuinely positive. People are following the mayor's lead in looking for real long term solutions to the many longstanding problems, especially changing the perceptions of both Hartford and regional and State citizens who see the empty part of the glass first. The mayor's point and the Town Hall demonstrated that the most effective communication even in the age of Facebook and Snapchat is still face-to-face conversation.

Photos are available at: <https://goo.gl/photos/G1TbEkkrPmdGkGsK8>