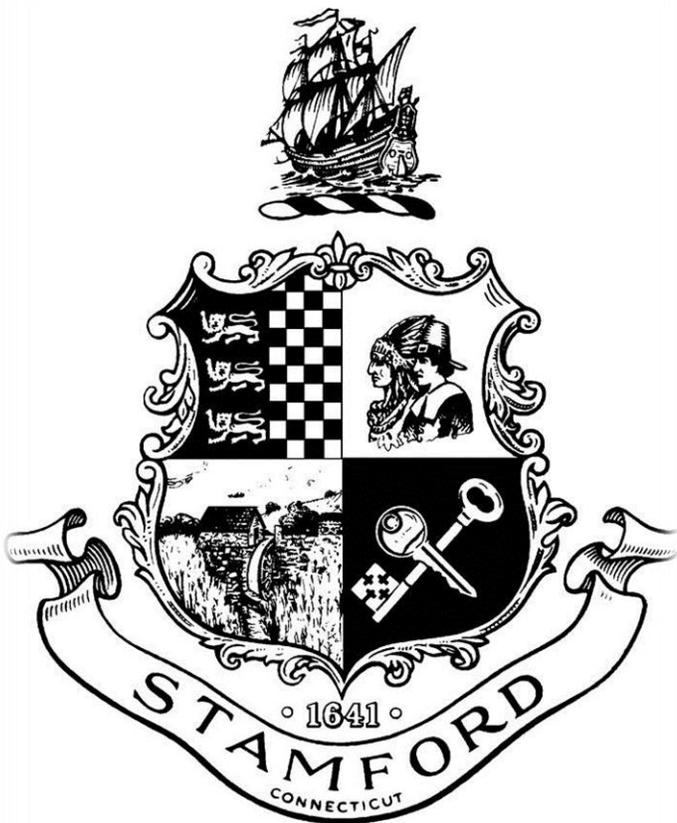


CITY OF STAMFORD

MARTIN ADMINISTRATION: FIRST YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



David R. Martin

Mayor



December 1, 2014

To the Stamford Community:

Today marks the one year anniversary of Mayor David Martin taking office as the 31st Mayor of Stamford. From day one the Mayor has been hard at work addressing our immediate and long term needs. He evaluates issues from several angles, asks the tough questions, and delivers a level of attention that ensures Stamford residents' interests are put above all others. The Mayor has been focused on big, citywide issues, such as elementary school capacity and street safety, but he has also pursued a number of smaller, but important changes aimed at improving city government and the quality of life for residents.

This document is intended to provide a snapshot of what has been accomplished one year into Mayor Martin's four year term. **Information is organized into six areas: Strong Management, Public Education, Public Safety, Transportation, Community Engagement & Quality of Life, and Technology in Government.** Listed are projects or initiatives that have been fully completed or reached a significant milestone. It does not list many pending and continuing issues that also receive significant attention from the Administration.

Our city has come a long way in such a short time. It would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteer boards and commissions, residents and city employees. Each step of the way, their input, ideas and advocacy has helped to ensure Stamford is a great place to live. We look forward to working alongside them in the months and years to come.

We hope this will be an informative document and shed light on the many great things happening here in City Hall. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to the Mayor's Office at 203-977-4150 or mayoroffice@stamfordct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dec".

Thomas Dec
Special Assistant to the Mayor

STRONG MANAGEMENT

Background: The Mayor leads a complex organization consisting of hundreds of employees working across many different departments and functional areas. Promoting the financial integrity of our City in the short and long term, finding efficiencies, and better serving residents and taxpayers has been a top priority of the Mayor. During his first year, the Mayor has made progress on several fronts.

Highlights

Maintained the City's AAA bond rating by Standard & Poors, which places Stamford as one of the highest-ranked cities in the United States.

Successfully negotiated a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the United Automobile Workers Union. The new contract reflects a shared commitment to providing the best possible service to our residents while also addressing the long term costs to city taxpayers in part by adjusting contributions for post-employment benefits.

Conducted an audit of Fire Department vacation time records and recovered over \$288,000 in excess vacation time from eighteen firefighters. Records had previously been maintained by hand in paper binders in each fire house, which contributed to errors in the recording and reporting of sick and vacation time.

Created a development approval process to ensure developers follow the rules and can submit their projects for consideration by the city boards & commissions in a timely manner. The new process was first implemented for the proposed development on Parcel 38 (Hole in the Ground), with great success.

Improved the tax assessment appeals process by providing residents with access to essential information about the timeline and a list of key documents needed for submitting an appeal.

Secured second-lowest interest rate on August 2014 general obligation bonds, better than rates for comparable municipalities, which will result in a savings of approximately \$700,000 over the life of the bonds.

Refinanced Mill River TIF bonds in September 2014, which resulted in a significant savings of more than \$17.5 million over the life of the bonds.

Successfully introduced the Kronos, a computerized time & attendance system among City and public safety employees, which brings greater accountability and management to the city workforce.

Created a Chief of Staff position within the Mayor's Cabinet to equip the Administration with greater management capabilities.

EDUCATION

Background: Supporting success of the Stamford Public Schools has always been a top priority for the Mayor. He believes strongly in the importance of public education and prior to being elected Mayor, promised to be more engaged on education issues. Since taking office, he has actively engaged as a non-voting member of the Board of Education and tackled capacity issues in the public schools. Throughout his first year, he has laid the foundation for further engagement and advocacy on behalf of our students.

Highlights

Purchased the property at 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue, which drew wide support from residents and bipartisan majorities on city boards. The property is the former site of the Sacred Heart Academy, which educated students in Stamford for 84 years. The Mayor intends to utilize the property to solve space challenges in the Stamford Public Schools.

Created a project committee to facilitate the engineering and design of a potential school at 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue. The committee is composed of 13 members and will play an integral role in shaping the future of the property.

Mayor has maintained a 90% attendance record at regular Board of Education meetings, the highest attendance record by a sitting Mayor since the Mayor was added to the Board as a non-voting member. The Mayor believes strongly that communication and partnership between the City and Board of Education is central to a great city.

Worked with state and local officials to secure the expansion of the CLC program in Stamford, which will allow 37 more students to receive pre-K instruction. Access to a sound pre-school program has been identified by researchers as a key factor in reducing the achievement gap.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Background: Stamford stands as a role model for cities across Connecticut and the nation when it comes to public safety. Consistently ranked as the safest city in New England, the Mayor took steps to uphold and enhance the high standard of safety in the community. Throughout his first year, he focused on issues such as street safety, gun safety, fire safety, and challenges at the Animal Control Center. He also supported the expansion of the City's Well Water Testing program, which has been critical to ensuring the safety of so many families throughout the city. He has been active in his engagement on issues of public safety and health and his first year record reflects this dedication.

Highlights

Stamford continued as the Safest City in New England, a position greatly supported by the proactive and dedicated work of the Stamford Police Department.

Joined Mayors Against Illegal Guns to take a strong stand against illegal firearms on our streets and worked with the Stamford Police Department to support efforts to prevent and reduce gun violence in the community.

Appointed the Assistant Fire Chief for Volunteer Services to help facilitate the unification of the career and volunteer fire services.

Appointed the Animal Control Center Task Force to review the policies at the Stamford Animal Control Center following the termination of the Animal Control Manager, who was found to have adopted out dogs with prior histories of aggression. The Task Force held numerous meetings and proposed a set of volunteer policies and procedures, which the Mayor accepted in September. Volunteers have returned to the Center and the Task Force is now conducting a review of the facility and potential sites for a new Center.

Supported the Well Water Testing Program and its expansion in January 2014 to also test for uranium and arsenic. 678 tests have been administered in calendar year 2014, with 102 homes having tested positive at above acceptable action levels for pesticides, uranium or arsenic.

Successfully negotiated an agreement between the Turn of River Volunteer Fire Department and the City to continue the process towards establishing a unified fire service under one Fire Chief in the City of Stamford.

Partnered with Inspirica Inc. to open Stamford's first evening/overnight warming center when Severe Cold Weather Protocols are in effect. Stamford's Government Center is open during the day for Severe Cold Weather Protocol emergencies but there was no place for this unsheltered population to stay at night.

TRANSPORTATION

Background: Transportation has been a key focus of Mayor Martin's administration. He recognizes the importance of investing in our infrastructure, including our roads, rail and public transportation. In the past year, he launched the Street Smart Initiative, a major initiative focused on making Stamford's streets safer and more accessible for pedestrians, drivers and cyclists. He was an outspoken supporter for increased investment in rail and worked closely with the State to secure the re-opening of a DMV office.

Highlights

Launched the Stamford Street Smart Initiative to make Stamford's streets safer and more accessible for all. The major initiative is multi-faceted, focusing on engineering, enforcement and education solutions.

Worked closely with state and local officials to secure the opening of a new DMV office in the City of Stamford. The office opened in October 2014 and is located at 137 Henry Street, in the Lathon Wider Community Center. It provides residents with key services such as license renewal, registration renewal, plate returns, and other permits.

Expanded the City's road paving program and instituted "Pothole Week" following above-average snowfall and severe cold weather. Residents submitted hundreds of pothole reports to the City, including through the City's mobile app MyStamford.

Testified to the U.S. Senate and was an outspoken advocate for improvements and investment in Metro-North. The New Haven line is critical to Stamford's future – and the future of the entire Northeast region – and the Mayor has been a strong advocate for residents and commuters throughout his tenure.

Worked with state officials to secure the rebuilding and upgrade of the Riverbend rail crossing in Stamford, which had been the site of multiple serious accidents. The crossing provides access to offices and other development in the Riverbend Center. The upgrades will include the installation of state-of-the-art safety equipment such as gates that will close when a train approaches. The street-level crossing, which now has only flashing lights to alert motorists, is part of the New Canaan branch of the New Haven commuter railroad. The improvements will begin in April 2015 and be performed by Metro-North, which operates the New Haven Line under contract to Conn DOT.

Reorganized Government Center parking garage to remove first floor reserved parking for city officials and provide better access and convenience to the public.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & QUALITY OF LIFE

Background: Stamford is a truly exemplary community. Its diversity of people, culture and geography make it a highly desirable place to live, work, raise a family and retire. The Mayor has not lost sight of the enormous impact city government can have on the lives of the residents and taxpayers who call Stamford home. He has engaged the community, worked on issues important to our neighborhoods, and has taken steps to ensure Stamford continues as a desirable destination for all.

Highlights

Reinstated Mayor's Night In / Out to provide residents with an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the Mayor to discuss any issues of concern. The Mayor has hosted several events in his office and Stamford's neighborhoods.

Increased funding for the Ferguson Library and enabled longer hours for residents to take advantage of the many wonderful resources offered. The main library is open an hour earlier and closes an hour later during weekdays, a nearly 20% increase in hours. The Harry Bennett Branch, Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch, and South End Branch also have expanded hours.

Attended over 315 community events and meetings throughout the city, which included cultural, civic and neighborhood events small and large.

Worked with the Westover Neighborhood to block a proposal by AT&T to build a cell tower in close proximity to wetlands and the historic Agudath Sholom Cemetery.

Hosted the first-ever Mayor's Google Hangout and expanded presence on social media in order to better communicate with residents on events and other issues facing the City.

Supported programing at the Stamford Senior Center and prevented cuts that would have reduced or eliminated the Hispanic Elderly Outreach program. The Mayor also supported funding that helped to provide transportation to seniors who no longer drive and wish to visit the Senior Center.

Expanded programming at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center through the launch of the new *Heckscher WILD!* environmental education initiative. The SM&NC serves over 25,000 school children in 132 schools and its public programs enjoy nearly 18,000 participants annually. The City grant funding has also enabled the SM&NC to expand its arts and cultural programing for adults with lectures, exhibition tours, and social programming.

Supported the reconstitution of Project Music, which was eliminated in 2010 due to budget cuts, and helped 30-40 children from low-income families participate in musicianship classes, choir, and group instrument classes.

Focused on making Stamford more energy efficient through the creation of the 2030 District in partnership with the Business Council of Fairfield and private building owners. The districts are urban areas committed to meeting the energy, water, and transportation emissions reduction targets of the 2030 Challenge for Planning. The City will be working with its own energy improvement district, along with making deep energy retrofits to city hall in order to help the district meet its goals.

Worked closely with local and state officials to ensure the prosecution of the owner of Stright Septic, who was charged with larceny 1st degree following an investigation. The warrant stated that Robert Aillery, the owner of Stright Septic, was charged with dumping septic waste pumped from customer septic systems into City of Stamford's sewer system. The dumping negatively impacted the Springdale neighborhood's quality of life for many years and the City was proud to help put an end to it.

TECHNOLOGY IN GOVERNMENT

Background: The Mayor believes strongly in the importance of transforming City Hall to become more data driven, open, and effective. Throughout his initial year in office, he pursued a number of technology projects that spanned everything from expanded video recording of public meetings to GPS tracking of city vehicles and plans to continue these efforts in the years to come.

Highlights

Expanded video recording of public meetings by expanding the number of rooms equipped with video equipment. The Mayor instructed Land Use Board meetings to be recorded immediately and there are plans to roll out video recording to all city boards and commissions.

Installed automatic vehicle locators (AVL) on city fleet of 132 vehicles, which is an important first step towards optimizing our operations through asset utilization and property protection.

Introduced online beach permitting that gives residents a convenient way to apply for their beach permit without traveling to the Government Center and waiting in long lines at the beginning of the season.

Introduced e-billing for tax bills so residents can receive their tax bill electronically.

Rolled out credit card payments for transactions at Town Clerk's Office in order to make the office more customer-friendly. The Town Clerk's Office is a repository for vital documents such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, and licenses for dogs, fishing, etc. Previously the office only accepted cash and checks for payment.

Installed audio and visual equipment in the City tax office in order to better secure the office and ensure the city provides the best possible customer service for residents.

Launched pilot program to install cameras in key areas around the city in order to combat illegal dumping. Preliminary observations show that the cameras are deterring illegal dumping and promoting safer, cleaner neighborhoods.