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Office of the Mayor

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**City Audits Fire Department and Corrects Vacation Time Records,
Recovers \$288,000 in Vacation Time**

STAMFORD, CT – The City Department of Human Resources announced Wednesday that it has completed an initial audit of Fire Department records to confirm that vacation time records were in compliance with contractual limits. The audit led to the City's identifying and preventing the payment of \$288,198.52 in excess vacation time from eighteen firefighters.

In a report released earlier this year, the outside audit firm O'Connor Davies expressed concerns over the accounting of vacation time in the Fire Department after being informed by the Human Resources Department of potential discrepancies. Following the publication of the report, Mayor Martin instructed City officials to pursue an internal audit to identify discrepancies between the Departmental accounting of accumulated vacation time and the maximum number of days permitted by contract.

The City's Human Resources Department began the audit by reviewing records of all firefighters maintaining over 100 vacation days. This group of employees had the highest potential for error and recovery of vacation time. The Mayor has asked the Department to continue its review for all active firefighters and correct any errors in the amount of vacation time reported.

Mayor Martin applauded the City's rigorous review of Departmental records, saying "This initial audit is just one step being taken to better account for employee vacation time. These accounting discrepancies cost City taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars and we must put an end to them."

To better manage vacation time, Mayor Martin has supported the introduction of a fully automated time and attendance system to the Fire Department and a full time position to manage employee time and attendance. Departmental records are currently maintained by hand in paper binders in each fire house, which has contributed to errors in the recording and reporting of sick and vacation time.

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