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STAMFORD MAYOR
MICHAEL A. PAVIA

Stamford's Calling Card

There's an old saying, "You never get a second chance to make a great first impression." That saying is just as important today in business, in our personal lives, and in our social media driven society.

Whether we choose to use a business card, a LinkedIn or Facebook profile, or a face-to-face meeting with someone new, we ultimately share our unique skills and characteristics in a way that resonates long after our initial meeting.

As Mayor, I've had the privilege of sharing Stamford's "Calling Card" with many visitors who are interested in our City.

These visitors will tell you that Stamford's "Calling Card" demonstrates a relentless commitment to maintain a unique quality of life, and drive growth and prosperity for our city. Let me share with you some of our values that have made such a lasting impact on them:

STELLAR REPUTATION FOR SAFETY

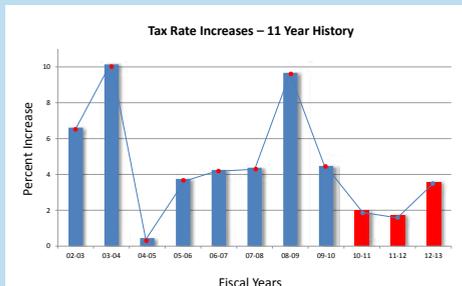
In a recent FBI study, Stamford has earned its reputation as the safest city in New England and ranks within the top 15 safest cities in America, with populations over 100,000. Serious crimes in Stamford have dropped 16% in 2012, compared to 2011. These successes are due in no small part to the dedicated officers of the Stamford Police Department.

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

The City recently issued \$50 million in 20-year tax-exempt general obligation bonds, at a historic low borrowing cost of 2.249%. This is the lowest long-term borrowing rate ever achieved by the City and a true confirmation to our citizens, both private and corporate, of the continuing financial health and stability of our City. The bond sale allows us to make critical investments in our infrastructure at a very affordable rate.

Stamford's Financial Advisor, Barry Bernabe, VP of Webster Bank, commented, "In a difficult financial environment... Stamford continues to successfully increase their reserve funds which have led to the City's strong credit quality and low borrowing costs." The City's bonds are rated AAA by Standard & Poor's and Aa1 by Moody's Investors Service.

As the budget process is underway for FY 2013-2014, we strive to continue to provide services in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Over the last three years, Stamford has enjoyed the lowest aggregate tax increase in its history at 2.41%. By comparison, prior to my administration, the average annual increase was 5.5% over eight years (2002-2010). See chart below for details.



BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS

The above mentioned bond offering will capitalize our commitment to Stamford's public school system by funding \$25 million for improvement projects that will contribute to a stronger, safer learning environment for our students, including:

- Multimillion dollar renovations at Northeast Elementary (\$4.2 million), Dolan Middle School (\$3.4 million), and Westhill High School (\$3.0 million)
- A \$2.9 million improvement project at Toquam Elementary
- A \$1.3 million expansion project for Springdale Elementary School

The Stamford Public Schools system comprises 15,500 students, 1,200 teachers, and 20 schools, including six magnet and two International Baccalaureate schools.

- SPS has achieved a five-year upward trend in our students' scores on the Spring 2012 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)
- SPS produced 219 Advanced Placement scholars and the second-highest number of AP test takers statewide in the class of 2012.
- 83.5% of our 2012 high-school seniors went on to higher education.
- In the fall of 2012, the Connecticut State Department of Education named Springdale and Hart elementary schools as Schools of Distinction, recognizing them for making outstanding progress on state achievement goals.

Students from many cultural backgrounds speak more than 66 different languages in the homes of our families. SPS offer students a learning experience that is rich in cultural diversity and reflective of the global society in which they will work and live.

INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Also being funded from the recent bond offering is Stamford's commitment to maintaining our infrastructure. Investment in our parks, streetscapes, roadways, and vital community services all contribute to the quality of life in Stamford. The City has successfully increased reserve funds to help cover \$25 million in capital improvement projects, including:

- \$4.5 million - Scofieldtown Park Design and Remediation
- \$3.5 million - Street Resurfacing
- \$3.5 million - City Sidewalk Reconstruction
- \$2.0 million New Animal Control facility
- \$1.0 million - Upgrade to the Pavilion at Cummings Park

CONTINUING OUR PROSPERITY

Despite the ongoing challenges of the economy, Stamford's unemployment rates remains favorable to the U.S. rate recorded at 7.8%, the State at 8.6%, while Stamford's was 6.4%, an improvement from the prior year by 1.1 points.

I recently convened a Roundtable of CEO's with businesses based in Stamford who described our city's personality as a "Big City Presence with a Small Town Feel." Leaders of recently relocated companies expressed how the City rallied to inform and assist them as they encountered unexpected issues with transition.

Among those relocated are NBC Sports Group, Charter Communications, United Rentals, Tronox Corporation, Intrepid Aviation, Tweedy Browne, and Kayak Corporation. Starwood Hotels and Resorts who moved in 2011 has already added 20% more employees than originally projected.

On the residential side, development in the Downtown and South End continues at an incredible pace. In 2012, 400+ units came on line and currently there are almost 2000 units under construction, ready to start construction or in the final stages of zoning approval.

MAINTAINING OUR GATEWAY

The Stamford Transportation Center (STC) is the busiest commuter train station between New York City and Boston, welcoming over 55,000 commuters daily.

Working closely with the CT Department of Economic Development and the CT Department of Transportation, we have committed to transform the STC into a vibrant environment. Illuminating the STC building exterior serves as a beacon for Stamford that can be seen from I-95 and many points in the City.

Stamford will participate in the first public/private partnership in Connecticut to deliver a \$40 million garage renovation and commercial development, firmly establishing the STC as the "Center" of Stamford.

E-GOVERNMENT

Our commitment to making government services more accessible to our citizens has been realized with the overhaul of the City of Stamford's website. Please visit the new site at www.stamfordct.gov.

I like to think of it as our "Virtual Government Center". It is now easier than ever to find what you are looking for through our 311 system, sign up for critical alerts, or even pay your taxes on line. In the coming months we will continue to enhance the system:

- Phase 2: Offer interactive forms for online submission, and extend online payments to additional departments.
- Phase 3: Increased interactivity for our 311 system.
- Phase 4: Electronic Building Permits.

ADVANCING OUR MEDICAL COMMUNITY

Our Department of Health & Social Services is committed to advancing health and wellness efforts throughout Stamford, and to working closely with partners in our medical community. An electronic medical record exchange system has been implemented in our public schools to improve compliance for physicals and immunization schedules among K-12 students, creating a healthier environment.

At the heart of our expanding medical community is Stamford Hospital, a Level 2 Trauma Center and affiliate of New York Presbyterian Healthcare System and Columbia University. The hospital has commenced its \$575 million expansion that will reinforce its position as one of the premier medical centers on the East Coast. We are also welcoming NYC's Hospital for Special Surgery's first external imaging facility.

A CIVIL CITY

In January of 2012, I pledged to work with our citizens to make Stamford the "Most Civil City" in our nation. With the belief that it's critical to maintain cooperation, understanding and civility in our society, I commissioned the "Civility in America" Speakers Series. I have been honored to welcome such celebrity speakers as Senator Olympia Snowe, New York News Anchorman Ernie Anastos, and Former NYC Schools Chancellor Joel Klein, who came to Stamford to share their personal perspectives on Civility, and departed with an incredible impression of our City. Future speakers include William Bratton, Allan Goodman and Fay Vincent. Please visit our website for information and to register for this free series.

The overall response to Stamford's Calling Card has been quite impressive.

It's no surprise that we are experiencing a rush of companies who want to call Stamford their home. They are coming here because they recognize Stamford as the undisputed economic engine of the State of Connecticut; they are staying here because they understand our commitment to maintaining an amazing quality of life for our citizens.

Giving our youth a chance



With the economic recovery lagging, the continued uncertainty in the economic environment has affected long-standing businesses, entrepreneurs, and households. The difficult job market is also acutely felt by Stamford's younger population who seek summer employment to save for a future education, or are looking to gain experience in a particular field of expertise.

For these reasons, I have created an initiative three years ago to help generate job opportunities for high school students in the City of Stamford.

My Youth Employment Program, in partnership with Stamford businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and the City of Stamford, creates opportunity for local junior and senior high school students by providing employment experiences, mentoring, coaching, job skills development, and assistance in college and career planning.

Through the generous support of our business community, we have successfully increased the size of our annual summer program from 30 students in 2011, to 52 students in 2012, and expect to include more than 70 students this year.

Students experienced internships in the government, private and public sectors of our city. In addition to 140 hours of real work experience at their jobs, the interns participated in 27 hours of leadership classes and 6 team projects which the students presented at the closing ceremonies. The group exceeded every expectation. The program has helped them establish a firm foundation upon which they can build bright a future.

As stated by Westhill High School graduate, Jon Berman: "To me, the Mayor's Youth Employment Program stands for much more than just providing jobs for teens in Stamford. It has prepared me for the work world through experiential learning. I have been exposed to a working environment similar to the one in which I would like to work after I graduate from college. Through the Mayor's Youth Employment Program, I now have the experience and skills to approach the job market with confidence."

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who supported the 2012 Mayor's Youth Employment Program. Indeed, we would never be able to accomplish our goal without the dedicated support and guidance of our partners in the Stamford community. As Mayor, I am proud to be part of a community that demonstrates a vested interest in its young people and that takes the time today, to create a stronger future for their tomorrow.

For more information on how to support this program, please visit www.stamfordct.gov, and go to Mayor's Office.