



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Stamford, Connecticut

Mayor Caroline Simmons

Submitted October 31, 2025

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## Part I - About Stamford

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Stamford, first settled in 1641, is Connecticut's second largest city by population. It was named the Town of Stamford in 1642 and was admitted to Connecticut in October 1662. In 1893, the City of Stamford, comprising the central portion of the Town of Stamford, was incorporated. Thereafter, the City of Stamford became a component part of the Town of Stamford resulting in two separate governments. On April 15, 1949, the Town and City were consolidated and named the City of Stamford (the "City"). The City covers an area of approximately 40 square miles located on Long Island Sound between Greenwich to the west and New Canaan and Darien to the east. The City is home to 56 parks and 19 miles of shoreline.

The City is less than one hour from New York City by rail or highway transportation. It is on the New Haven line of the Metro-North commuter railroad and also receives service from Shoreline East, Amtrak, and Conrail which provide daily passenger and freight service. It is served by interstate, intrastate, and local bus lines. The Connecticut Turnpike (I-95), the Boston Post Road (U.S. Route 1), and the Merritt Parkway (CT Route 15), traverse the City.

The City has a high concentration of national and international corporate headquarters, and it is the major retail trade center of Fairfield County, yet it maintains its suburban character and residential areas. The City offers its residents a high quality of life including good schools, a broad array of public services, attractive parks and recreational activities, and a safe living environment. Through sound urban planning the City has strengthened its downtown retail core, increased its housing and cultural facilities, and attracted major office development.

### *Census Statistics*

Stamford is an important residential suburb in one of the highest per capita income areas of the United States. The latest (2020) US Census Release reports Stamford's median household income as \$96,885 with a population of 135,470.

## Introduction to City Government

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### *Structure*

The City of Stamford operates under a Charter adopted in 1949 and most recently revised in November 2013. The 2013 18th Charter Revision was undertaken to correct discrepancies created by the 2012 decennial charter review. The 2012 revisions mandated a Board of Ethics, created a Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, added a preamble concerning Citizens' Rights, created a single combined fire department consisting of the existing municipal department and the five volunteer companies, and made a number of technical changes to the Charter. The 19<sup>th</sup> Charter Revision process was initiated in early 2022 and is currently underway.

The chief executive officer of the City is the Mayor, who has been elected for a four-year term of office. The legislative function is performed by a forty-member Board of Representatives whose members are elected, two from each of twenty districts, for four-year terms. The Board of Representatives adopts ordinances and

resolutions and must approve all expenditures of funds. A six-member Board of Finance, elected to staggered three-year terms with provisions for representation of two major political parties, establishes fiscal policy and must approve all expenditures of funds.

The City provides a full range of municipal services, including education, public safety (police and fire), public works (engineering, road construction and maintenance, waste disposal, sewage treatment, building maintenance, etc.), health and social services, planning and development, and recreational and cultural services. Approximately 4,600 full- and part-time employees – representing both the City of Stamford and the Board of Education – provide services to a community which geographically spans nearly 40 square miles and includes more than 135,000 residents. A listing of City offices and additional information about the City is available on the City’s website at [www.stamfordct.gov](http://www.stamfordct.gov).

### *Principal Municipal Officials*

The Mayor, subject to the approval of the Board of Representatives, appoints four Directors: the Director of Operations, Director of Administration, Director of Legal Affairs, and Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare. The Mayor also appoints the Director of Economic Development and a Chief of Staff. The Directors and the Chief of Staff serve at the Mayor’s pleasure and their terms are coterminous with the Mayor’s term of office.

| <b><i>Municipal Officials</i></b>  |                          |                                  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Office</b>                      | <b>Name</b>              | <b>Manner of Selection/ Term</b> |
| Mayor                              | Caroline Simmons         | Elected/4 years                  |
| Chief of Staff                     | Bridget Fox              | Appointed by Mayor               |
| Superintendent of Schools          | Dr. Tamu Lucero          | Appointed by Board of Ed         |
| Director of Administration         | Benjamin Barnes          | Appointed by Mayor               |
| Director of Operations             | Matthew Quinones         | Appointed by Mayor               |
| Director of Legal Affairs          | Thomas Cassone           | Appointed by Mayor               |
| Director of Public Safety & Health | Louis DeRubeis           | Appointed by Mayor               |
| Director of Human Resources        | Paula A. Russell Nisbett | Appointed by Mayor               |
| Director of Economic Development   | Leah Kagan               | Appointed by Mayor               |

## **Mayor’s Office**

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Mayor Caroline Simmons was elected on November 1, 2021, as the 32<sup>nd</sup> Mayor of the City of Stamford. Ms. Simmons began her four-year term on December 1, 2021.

Mayor Simmons’ Cabinet members are as follows:

- Rachel Alonso-Mendoza, Special Assistant – Communications & Resident Services Specialist
- Paula A. Russell Nisbett, Director of Human Resources
- Thomas Cassone, Director of Legal Affairs
- Benjamin Barnes, Director of Administration
- Louis DeRubeis, Director of Public Health & Safety
- Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff
- Janeene Freeman, Special Assistant – Community Engagement & Partnerships
- Cindy Grafstein, Special Assistant for Education
- Lauren Meyer – Special Assistant for Policy & Legislative Affairs
- Aaron Miller, Special Assistant – Communications & Arts and Culture Program Manager
- Geraldine Uribe, Special Assistant – Economic Development
- Leah Kagan, Director of Economic Development
- Matthew Quinones, Director of Operations

In addition to the Mayor’s Cabinet, the Mayor’s Office has an Executive Secretary, Ngan Nguyen.

### *Appointments to Boards and Commissions*

Since taking office on December 1, 2021, 170 candidates nominated by the Mayor have been appointed/reappointed.

### *Constituent Services Summary*

The Mayor’s Office receives many requests for service monthly from constituents, citizens, elected officials, board members, community agencies and businesses. In addition, the Mayor is required weekly to sign dozens of contracts, agreements, and other items, which require Mayoral review, approval, and processing. In addition to the Mayor’s work and meeting schedule, the Mayor receives many invitations to attend and participate in community events and strives to attend each event.

### *Mayor’s Constituent Activities*

The Mayor regularly meets with residents, neighborhood associations and other groups to discuss constituent and neighborhood issues either virtually or in-person. Mayor Simmons initiated Citizen Hubs and Coffee with the Mayor, located at various locations around the City.

### *Cabinet Meetings, Employee Communications, Directors & Managers Meetings*

#### *Cabinet Meetings*

The Mayor’s weekly Cabinet meetings are a collective forum for members of the Administration to discuss important government projects, department issues, challenges, as well as other matters concerning the City. This year, the Mayor’s Office is emphasizing infrastructure – both applying for grants and prioritizing and determining projects.

## *Directors & Managers Meetings*

Several times a year, Mayor Simmons invites all Directors and Department Managers throughout the City to participate in a roundtable discussion to share information and discuss current projects, initiatives and issues within each department. These sessions are very informative and provide the opportunity for each department to become familiar with what is happening throughout the City.

Employee Communications – Employees can keep apprised of day-to-day activities, programs, opportunities and other newsworthy items through the City’s intranet. Employees and departments submit information for postings to the site.

Mayor Simmons’ administration is emphasizing employee (and community) engagement. An annual Employee Picnic has been held every September since 2022. An employee satisfaction survey was conducted and reported to department heads and supervisors before the results were revealed to all employees in one of the Citywide employee meetings that the Mayor holds several times a year.

Many community events and holiday celebrations were held throughout the year at Government Center to which all City employees are invited and encouraged to attend.

On July 8, 2024, Mayor Caroline Simmons delivered the State of the City Address to Stamford’s Board of Representatives.

## *Mayor’s Youth Services and Programs*

### *Youth Services Bureau*

The mission of the Mayor’s Youth Services Bureau (MYSB) is to promote the development of caring, responsible, and successful young people in Stamford. This is done through the following direct services: juvenile justice prevention and intervention, truancy prevention and intervention, youth activism, adventure education, youth development, youth employment and coalition building. The Mayor’s Youth Services Bureau also serves as the Lead Local Interagency Services Team (LIST) for the Stamford/Greenwich Court Catchment Area as designated by the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, DCF and CSSD. The LISTs are intended to engage and integrate communities into statewide planning efforts to meet the needs of youth at risk and court involved youth and their families to prevent further juvenile justice involvement.

### *Youth Employment Program*

The MYEP completed its 14th year with 73 Stamford resident high school juniors and seniors at over 50 worksites, with paid summer jobs in the corporate, private, non-profit or government sector. The students work 28 hours a week and leave the program year with 140 hours of "real work" experience that molds & shapes skills for tomorrow’s workforce and 27 hours of leadership training. The work experience is accompanied by a weeklong orientation and weekly training sessions focused on leadership, team skills, work ethics, customer service, project management, personal finances & resume completion. Students are given the opportunity to not only earn money & develop skills but to explore different career paths and enhance the essential skills necessary to be successful in the workforce.

### *Youth Leadership Council*

The mission of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council (MYLC) is to promote safe schools and communities, with an emphasis on school climate and culture, which includes bullying, sexual harassment, mental health, suicide prevention, human trafficking, dating violence and the rights of immigrants. MYLC's model of student activism has three components: public awareness activities, volunteer programs and social change campaigns.

MYLS is in all three high schools with MYLC WHS having 80 members and 7 student executive leaders, MYLC AITE having 60 members with 7 student executive leaders and MYLC SHS having 50 members with 10 student executive leaders for a total of 190 district wide members. MYLC programs robust opportunity for student voice through City-wide webinars with superintendent, invited guests from the community and school district. We were able to maintain our typical outreach within the school building by completing four in-school events per month and maintaining a strong social media presence.

### *Adventure Education*

The purpose of the Adventure Education program is to promote and strengthen self-confidence, communication skills, teamwork, trust, and leadership skills in children and teens. The adventure program is also used to promote healthy relationships between children and adults. The program has several components. During the academic year, the Adventure Education program works with a variety of community groups, youth serving agencies, and public and private school groups. Pathfinders Adventure Camp offers a combination of traditional camp activities and adventure components, including challenge course programming, canoeing, and mountain biking, hiking, orienteering, and rock climbing.

### *Chronic Absentee Program*

The Mayor's Youth Services Bureau (MYSB) provides support at the district, school, family, and student level to help reduce chronic absenteeism in Stamford Public Schools. Chronic Absenteeism (missing school for any reason) has become a leading metric for determining student success and closing the achievement gap. We provide attendance resources and support to schools and families from preschool through high school graduation and serve as the community agency designated by the Connecticut State Department of Education for referrals for truant students (unexcused absences) that were formerly processed through the juvenile court system. The MYSB works closely with Stamford Public Schools in the development and implementation of policies and procedures designed to improve school attendance. The program created the District Attendance Team uniting stakeholders across multiple sectors with the common goal of increasing student engagement. The team utilizes data on the district level to identify patterns, establish district wide standards for early detection and intervention and promote policies at the district level to remove barriers to attendance. We actively work with community agencies on the development and presentation of targeted Attendance Awareness programs designed to meet the needs of diverse community members.

### *Coalition Building*

The Mayor's Youth Services Bureau (MYSB) provides support to all youth serving organizations in the Stamford/Greenwich Court Catchment Area by serving as the Lead Local Interagency Implementation Team (LIST) as designated by the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, DCF and CSSD. The 13 LISTs, one in each

court catchment area of the state, are intended to engage and integrate communities and local voice into statewide planning efforts to meet the needs of youth at risk, court-involved youth and their families to prevent further juvenile justice involvement.

Our goal is to continue to support the building of a healthy community that promotes asset development and views youth as resources. The MYSB will work with schools, community organizations, and most importantly, the young people to ensure that they are provided with the support and guidance they need to become the leaders of tomorrow.

The MYSB vision is to reach every young person in Stamford who wants to get involved in positive, safe, and rewarding activities in an environment where they are treated with dignity, respect, and positive regard. We work with schools and community organizations to find ways young people can get involved, be engaged, and help make significant contributions that are meaningful and beneficial. MYSB strives to ensure that our local youth have the support and guidance they need to become the leaders of tomorrow.

### *Mayor's Multicultural Council*

It is the Mission of the Mayor's Multicultural Council of the City of Stamford, Connecticut to inform, celebrate, promote, understand, appreciate and respect the rich diversity of the many cultural groups that enrich the City.

The Mayor's Multicultural Council (MMC) has approximately 15 members who celebrate and promote the understanding and respect of a rich diversity of the many cultural groups that enrich the City of Stamford. Some of the annual programs such as the Italian Heritage Festival, Miss Latina USA, Martin Luther King celebration, Indian Festival of Lights and Juneteenth celebrations were held in person for the first time in several years. In addition, many Independence Day celebrations were held in person again throughout the year with increased participation and enthusiasm.

### *Stamford Animal Shelter Alliance (Animal Control Center)*

The Mayor's Office continues to work with the Stamford Animal Shelter Alliance (SASA, formerly Stamford Helping Paws), a private 501(c)3 charitable organization, dedicated to supporting the Stamford Animal Control & Care Center. Its main goal is to raise funds to construct a new facility. Members of the Mayor's cabinet (or designees) are represented on the Board of Directors.

In October of 2025, construction started on a new Stamford Animal Control and Care Center.

### *Citizens Service Center*

The Citizens Services Center ("CSC") is responsible for customer service for the City of Stamford. In early 2022, the Citizens Service Center oversight was transferred from Operations to the Mayor's Office. Staff consisted of one CSC Representative and a Supervisor. CSC is responsible for answering general telephone inquiries and entering service requests into the City's electronic Customer Relationship Management ("CRM") Tool, Veoci. The CRM routes citizen requests to the appropriate departments, who complete the requested service and respond back to the citizen. Residents who contact the CSC can also request an update status of their service requests using a tracking number. The Road Maintenance Department, Sanitation Department, City Parks Department, Signals Crew, and Signs and Lines Crews have been outfitted with iPads and are able to enter requests for service as well as information on responses to request.

# Office of Economic Development

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## *Background Economic Indicators*

Stamford boasts a diverse economic base which includes major firms in several important industry clusters. The city's commercial property maintains a cost advantage over mid-city Manhattan and Greenwich which helps to sustain the city's commercial base at comparatively favorable rent levels for commercial tenants. Stamford is the State's largest business center and is one of the pre-eminent locations for corporate headquarters, ranking within the top 10% nationally. Stamford is home to four Fortune 500 and nine Fortune 1000 companies and supports some of Connecticut's most prestigious businesses. Along with many regional branches, the headquarters of many prominent companies such as Charter Communications, Synchrony Financial, WWE, NBC Sports Group, Philips, United Rentals, Gartner, Pitney Bowes, Deloitte, and Vineyard Vines call Stamford home. Stamford boasts an impressive list of finance, insurance, management, real-estate, digital media, health, and consumer goods companies. By fostering some of the top businesses in the country, Stamford's strong employment opportunities are one of the driving forces in attracting young talent. Science and technology startups have been relocating to Stamford given the abundance of co-working and incubator spaces as well as the opportunity for venture capital funds and angel investments. Stamford is also the largest international trade center between New York and Boston.

In the past year there have been numerous completed developments with over 1,000 residential units completed in the past 12 months. There are currently over 5,000 units that are actively under construction or have been approved by the city to begin construction. (Source: Land Use/Zoning) Stamford also boasts a 96% apartment building occupancy rate and a 90% downtown retail occupancy rate.

## *Projects*

### *Recent Project Openings*

- 18 Dock Street: 395 apartments and 7,000 sq ft of retail
- 287-297 Washington Blvd: 22 apartments all BMR
- 72 Spruce Street: 132 apartments
- 733-777 Summer Street: 354 apartments and 4,000 sq ft of retail
- Anthem / Opus Harbor Point (Parcels P3 / P6): 2 Harbor Point Road, 360 apartments
- Life Time Living Stamford: 245 Atlantic Street, 290 apartments and 55,000 sq ft of retail and gym
- One Atlantic: 1 Atlantic Street, 77 apartments and 35,716 sq ft of retail
- The Asher: 154 Greyrock Place, 228 apartments and 8,000 sq ft of office space
- The Davenport: 84 West Park Place, 27 apartments and ground floor restaurant, conversion of office to residential
- The Hazel Stamford: 523 Canal Street, 183 apartments and 1,600 sq ft of retail and 2,400 sq ft of community space
- The Lafayette: 819 East Main Street, 130 apartments
- The Lafayette: 819 East Main Street, 85 apartments and 3,000 sq ft of retail
- The Smyth: 100 Tresser, 414 apartments and 19,333 sq ft of retail
- The Stanley: 1315 Washington Blvd, 187 apartments
- URBYPHASE 2: 57 Greyrock Place, 186 apartments

### *Projects Currently under Construction*

- 100 Clinton Ave: 471 apartments
- 100 Elmcroft Road: 256 apartments
- 419 West Avenue: 74,891 sq ft of industrial space
- 800 Long Ridge Road: 354 apartments and 10,076 sq ft of retail
- 900 Long Ridge Road: 800 Long Ridge Road, 463 apartments and 5,000 sq ft of retail
- The Riverhouse: 17 West Main Street, 110 apartments and 2,300 sq ft of retail

### *Projects Approved But Not Under Construction:*

- 66 Stillwater Ave: 18 apartments
- 0 West Park Place: 99 room hotel
- 120 Hamilton Ave: 112,757 sq ft of industrial space
- 12-18 Taylor Street: 18 apartments
- 128 Broad Street: 128-136 Broad Street, 196 apartments and 4,324sq ft of retail
- 16 Remington St: 3 apartments
- 171 Stillwater Avenue: 36 apartments and 4,310 sq ft of retail
- 210 Long Ridge Road: 210 apartments
- 24 Dolsen Pl: 3 apartments
- 3 Landmark Square: 400 apartments and 5,000 sq ft of retail and Veterans' Park and pedestrian safety improvements
- 300 Main Street: 149 room hotel and new restaurant
- 31 Maple Tree: 6 apartments
- 35 Commerce Rd: 61,077 sq ft of industrial space
- 375 Fairfield Ave: 55,657 sq ft of industrial space
- 41-45 Stillwater Avenue: 39 apartments and 4,810 sq ft of office space
- 460 Summer Street: 40 apartments
- 50 Barry Place: 35,500 retail space
- 583 Pacific Street: 9 apartments
- 589 Bedford Street: 21 apartments and 3,542
- 677-707 Washington Blvd: 406 apartments and 12,207 sq ft of retail
- 74 Broad Street: 280 apartments and 6,000 sq ft of retail
- 83 & 95 Morgan Street: 42 apartments
- 91 Hope Street: 27 apartments
- Delamar Residences: 68 Seaview Avenue, 52 apartments and 6,800 sq ft of office space
- Harbor Point Parcel C2: Woodland Ave/Pacific St, 540 apartments
- Metro Tower: 0 Station Place, 325,000 sq ft of office space
- Old Town Hotel : 160 Atlantic Street, 82-room hotel
- Pacific & Henry Street: 171 Henry Street, 670 Pacific Street, 61 apartments and 3,123 sq ft of retail
- Walton Place: 1 Walton Place, 244 apartments, preservation of First Congregational Church

- Wescott Apartments: 1430 Washington Boulevard, 19 apartments
- 72 Cummings Pt Rd: 2790 sq ft

### *Commercial Office Market*

In 2024 Q3, Stamford tenants shifted their focus toward lease renewals. A total of 288,000 sq. ft. was renewed, with Indeed leading the way with a 155,000 sq. ft. renewal at 177 Broad Street in preparation for its upcoming move to 695 East Main Street. Additionally, Diageo renewed 57,000 sq. ft. at 695 East Main Street.

The City's Central Business District (CBD) accounted for 120,000 sq. ft. of leasing activity. The largest lease in the downtown area was full-floor lease of 38,000 sq. ft. at 400 Atlantic Street, which is currently 48% occupied. Stamford CBD's annual leasing activity reached 540,000 sq. ft. in 2024. This submarket secured the year's largest lease, with Indeed relocating to 695 East Main Street and occupying 124,000 sq. ft.

In Q4 of 2024, Stamford CBD recorded 115,000 sq. ft. of leasing activity. The most significant lease in Q4 was State Street Bank's relocation from 1600 Summer Street to 400 Atlantic Street, resulting in a lease of 31,000 sq. ft. Notable tenants that renewed their leases in Stamford during the year included Henkel, Philip Morris, and Diageo totaling 637,000 sq. ft. in renewal activity. Leasing activity in the non-CBD amounted to 8,000 sq. ft. Rental rates in the Stamford CBD remained stable throughout 2024, with Fdiverasking rents at \$46.70 per sq. ft.

In 2025 Q1, Stamford's office market experienced a slight slowdown, recording 116,743 sq. ft. in leasing activity. Nevertheless, the market maintained pricing stability, with an annual rent increase of \$0.40 per square foot. The city's availability rate declined primarily due to the conversion of 900 Long Ridge Road into residential space. At the end of the quarter, Stamford's office vacancy rate was 29.7%. Despite the leasing slowdown in Q1, Stamford saw a significant new lease transaction in Q2, with Information Services Group signing for 17,552 sq. ft. at 400 Atlantic Street. The CBD of Stamford showed positive momentum, as the vacancy rate decreased to 23.9%. Overall leasing activity in Stamford's CBD totaled 108,512 sq. ft.

In addition, Stamford had four major renewals from First County Bank at 3001 Summer Street for 19,683 square feet, Morgan Stanley at 4 Landmark Square for 23,062 square feet, and Cummings & Lockwood at 6 Landmark Square for 55,643 sq. ft. Both the CBD and non-CBD submarkets demonstrated positive net absorption during the quarter.

Stamford's innovative approach to office-to-residential conversions gained national recognition in a Brookings Report, which highlighted Stamford as a model for transforming underused office properties into much needed housing. Underscoring the City's proactive strategies to adapt its commercial real estate market while addressing housing demand.

Sources: [Cushman & Wakefield](#), [CBRE](#), [The Brookings Institution](#), [New lease highlights rebound of former Charter Communications HQ building in Stamford, CT consumer goods giant Henkel renews lease](#)

[for divisional HQ in downtown Stamford, Information Services Group, three other companies sign leases in downtown Stamford building](#)

*Lease Signings – July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025*

| Completed | Tenant                                      | Address                  | RSF     | Type    | Industry          | Submarket      |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|----------------|
| Q3 2024   | Keter Environmental Services                | 400 Atlantic Street      | 38,696  | Lease   | Environmental     | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Guggenheim Partners, LLC                    | 300 First Stamford Place | 10,576  | Lease   | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Confidential Tenant                         | 400 Atlantic Street      | 9,975   | Lease   | Electronics       | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Cine Magnetics Video & Digital Laboratories | 9 West Broad Street      | 12,572  | Renewal | Entertainment     | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Royal Bank of Canada                        | 1 Landmark Square        | 11,500  | Renewal | Banking           | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Slager Madry                                | 750 East Main Street     | 3,849   | Lease   | Law               | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Direct Source Packaging                     | 225 High Ridge Road      | 3,404   | Renewal | Consumer Products | Stamford N/CBD |
| Q3 2024   | Long Path Partners                          | 1 Landmark Square        | 3,295   | Renewal | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Fletcher Knight                             | 1 Dock Street            | 2,372   | Renewal | Marketing/P.R.    | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Ameriprise Financial, Inc.                  | 225 High Ridge Road      | 2,061   | Renewal | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford N/CBD |
| Q3 2024   | Twin Lions Management                       | 1 Landmark Square        | 2,038   | Lease   | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Clear Street Management, LLC                | 1 Dock Street            | 2,037   | Lease   | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Pier Capital, LLC                           | 600 Summer Street        | 1,535   | Renewal | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | SumRidge Partners                           | 1 Dock Street            | 1,352   | Lease   | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | RSM   | 695 East Main Street     | 23,944  | Renewal | Accounting        | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | True North Partners LLC                     | 9 West Broad Street      | 2,995   | Renewal | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Cross Regional                              | 680 Washington Boulevard | 3,600   | Lease   | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024   | Indeed                                      | 177 Broad Street         | 150,273 | Renewal | Internet Related  | Stamford CBD   |

|         |                                     |                           |         |                   |  |                |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------------------|--|----------------|
| Q3 2024 | PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP         | 263 Tresser Boulevard     | 24,837  | Expansion/Renewal | Accounting                               | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | ADM Group                           | 9 West Broad Street       | 4,782   | Lease             | Consulting                               | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | BCK Capital Management              | 1010 Washington Boulevard | 2,239   | Renewal           | Financial Svcs.                          | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | Harbor Access                       | 1 Landmark Square         | 1,620   | Lease             | Consulting                               | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | Triveni Capital Management          | 107 Elm Street            | 2,465   | Lease             | Financial Svcs.                          | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | Carrier                             | 4 Landmark Square         | 3,385   | Lease             | Engineering                              | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | CFGI                                | 1 Landmark Square         | 3,457   | Lease             | Consulting                               | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | Beauty Quest Group                  | 680 Washington Boulevard  | 11,034  | Lease             | Cosmetics/Perfume/Health and Beauty Aids | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | AIP Private Capital                 | 750 Washington Boulevard  | 8,262   | Expansion         | Financial Svcs.                          | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | Lorex Plastics                      | 1200 High Ridge Road      | 4,077   | Lease             | Manufacturing                            | Stamford N/CBD |
| Q3 2024 | Experienced Advisory Associates LLC | 1055 Washington Boulevard | 3,523   | Lease             | Financial Svcs.                          | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | Voya Financial                      | 750 Washington Boulevard  | 2,824   | Lease             | Financial Svcs.                          | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | Diageo PLC North America            | 695 East Main Street      | 57,551  | Renewal           | Consumer Products                        | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | Kings Buyer                         | 225 High Ridge Road       | 8,296   | Lease             | Miscellaneous                            | Stamford N/CBD |
| Q3 2024 | Indeed                              | 695 East Main Street      | 124,180 | Lease             | Internet Related                         | Stamford CBD   |
| Q3 2024 | Henkel Corporation                  | 695 East Main Street      | 84,046  | Renewal           | Consumer Products                        | Stamford CBD   |
| Q4 2024 | Friedman Vartolo                    | 263 Tresser Boulevard     | 5,054   | New Lease         | Law                                      | Stamford CBD   |
| Q4 2024 | Preferred Brands International      | 3 Landmark Square         | 5,765   | Renewal           | Consumables                              | Stamford CBD   |
| Q4 2024 | E4 Content Group                    | 1 Landmark Square         | 5,820   | New Lease         | Entertainment                            | Stamford CBD   |

|         |   |                          |        |                    |                     |                  |
|---------|---|--------------------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Q4 2024 | Radiant World Commodities                   | 281 Tresser Boulevard    | 1,986  | New Lease          | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Future 5                                    | 4 Landmark Square        | 7,500  | New Lease          | Education           | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Oban Biopharma                              | 1 Landmark Square        | 3,062  | New Lease          | Pharmaceuticals     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Tudor Investment                            | 695 East Main Street     | 24,538 | Renewal /Expansion | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Northern Trust                              | 301 Tresser Boulevard    | 13,526 | New Lease          | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Cenveo                                      | 100 First Stamford Place | 10,804 | New Lease          | Office Products     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | GE Capital                                  | 400 Atlantic Street      | 1,771  | Expansion          | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | McCarter & English                          | 281 Tresser Boulevard    | 10,933 | New Lease          | Law                 | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Cannae Holdings                             | 1 Station Place          | 4,910  | New Lease          | Holding Company     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | PKF O'Connor Davies@@@                      | 3001 Summer Street       | 10,824 | Renewal            | Accounting          | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q4 2024 | Anomaly Entertainment                       | 1 Dock Street            | 2,772  | Renewal            |                     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | INTL FCStone                                | 850 Canal Street         | 4,499  | Renewal            | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Cambridge International Partners            | 2187 Atlantic Street     | 4,550  | New Lease          | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | State Street Bank                           | 400 Atlantic Street      | 31,701 | New Lease          | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Balyasny Asset Management                   | 2187 Atlantic Street     | 10,464 | New Lease          | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | H.I.G. Capital                              | 1 Station Place          | 8,855  | Renewal            | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Ernst & Young                               | 300 First Stamford Place | 19,877 | Renewal            | Accounting          | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) | 1 High Ridge Park        | 32,603 | Renewal            | Education           | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q4 2024 | Capital One N.A.                            | 100 First Stamford Place | 10,729 | Renewal            | Financial Svcs.     | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Stantec Consulting Services                 | 750 East Main Street     | 3,210  | New Lease          | Architecture/Design | Stamford CBD     |
| Q4 2024 | Insperity, Inc.                             | 680 Washington Boulevard | 4,707  | Renewal            | Employment Agency   | Stamford CBD     |

|         |   |                                 |        |               |                         |                      |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|--------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Q1 2025 | Steward Partners<br>Global Advisory                   | 400 Atlantic<br>Street          | 8,147  | New<br>Lease  | Financial Svcs.         | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Moneycorp   | 400 Atlantic<br>Street          | 11,956 | New<br>Lease  | Financial Svcs.         | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Shelter Growth Capital<br>Partners                    | 750 Washington<br>Boulevard     | 7,440  | Renewal       | Financial Svcs.         | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Pain Management<br>Associates                         | 1200 High Ridge<br>Road         | 1,691  | New<br>Lease  | Health Care             | Stamford Non-<br>CBD |
| Q1 2025 | Chaffin Luhana  | 9 West Broad<br>Street          | 2,083  | New<br>Lease  | Law                     | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Granby Capital  | 281 Tresser<br>Boulevard        | 1,510  | New<br>Lease  | Financial Svcs.         | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | PricewaterhouseCoop<br>ers                            | 263 Tresser<br>Boulevard        | 5,387  | Expansi<br>on | Accounting              | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Keter Environmental<br>Services Inc                   | 400 Atlantic<br>Street          | 12,322 | New<br>Lease  | Information<br>Services | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Premier Auto Tag                                      | 2777 Summer<br>Street           | 2,762  | New<br>Lease  | Miscellaneous           | Stamford Non-<br>CBD |
| Q1 2025 | KenCast   | 750 East Main<br>Street         | 4,542  | New<br>Lease  | Telecommunicatio<br>ns  | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Drive Shack   | 700 Canal<br>Street             | 7,741  | New<br>Lease  | Entertainment           | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Santander Bank  | 1 Dock Street                   | 4,289  | Renewal       | Banking                 | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Venture Solar   | 1 Dock Street                   | 3,776  | New<br>Lease  | Energy Related          | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | NorthCoast Asset<br>Management                        | 400 Atlantic<br>Street          | 13,612 | New<br>Lease  | Financial Svcs.         | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Filben Group  | 1 Landmark<br>Square            | 2,863  | New<br>Lease  | Construction/Dev.       | Stamford CBD         |
| Q1 2025 | Building & Land<br>Technology                         | 2 Harbor Point<br>Rd            | 23,919 | New<br>Lease  | Real Estate             | Stamford CBD         |
| Q2 2025 | Trackman  | 1010<br>Washington<br>Boulevard | 3,858  | New<br>Lease  | Computer Related        | Stamford CBD         |
| Q2 2025 | DBRS & Morningstar                                    | 100 First<br>Stamford Place     | 5,297  | Renewal       | Financial Svcs.         | Stamford CBD         |
| Q2 2025 | High Tor Asset<br>Management                          | 107 Elm Street                  | 2,078  | New<br>Lease  | Financial Svcs.         | Stamford CBD         |
| Q2 2025 | Robert W. Baird & Co.<br>Incorporated, a<br>Wisconsin | 300 First<br>Stamford Place     | 4,703  | Renewal       | Financial Svcs.         | Stamford CBD         |

|         |  |                           |        |           |                      |                  |
|---------|--|---------------------------|--------|-----------|----------------------|------------------|
| Q2 2025 |  | 1177 Summer Street        | 1,930  | New Lease |                      | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q2 2025 | CottonTails                                | 0 River Bend #9           | 15,230 | New Lease | Education            | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q2 2025 | Information Services Group                 | 400 Atlantic Street       | 17,552 | New Lease | Information Services | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Philip Morris USA                          | 677 Washington Boulevard  | 7,873  | Expansion | Consumables          | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 |  | 2777 Summer Street        | 1,403  | New Lease |                      | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q2 2025 | Oakridge Management Co.                    | 1 Landmark Square         | 2,428  | New Lease | Management           | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Cummings & Lockwood                        | 6 Landmark Square         | 55,643 | Renewal   | Law                  | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Information Services Group                 | 2187 Atlantic Street      | 6,405  | New Lease | Information Services | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | FergTech                                   | 1290 East Main Street     | 2,500  | New Lease | Information Services | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q2 2025 | BDO Financial                              | 400 Atlantic Street       | 10,360 | New Lease | Accounting           | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Skydance Animation East                    | 700 Canal Street          | 9,652  | Renewal   | Information Services | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Gilbane Building                           | 1055 Washington Boulevard | 901    | Renewal   | Real Estate          | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Otter Rock Advisors                        | 400 Atlantic Street       | 2,370  | New Lease | Financial Svcs.      | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Saugatuck Group                            | 400 Atlantic Street       | 3,196  | New Lease | Real Estate          | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Cushman & Wakefield                        | 107 Elm Street            | 15,238 | Renewal   | Real Estate          | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Martin                                     | 1 Landmark Square         | 3,950  | New Lease | Law                  | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Massar Capital Management                  | 107 Elm Street            | 2,380  | New Lease | Financial Svcs.      | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Susquehanna Financial Group                | 263 Tresser Boulevard     | 4,324  | Renewal   | Financial Svcs.      | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Saugatuck Associates                       | 400 Atlantic Street       | 2,915  | New Lease | Financial Svcs.      | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | 14th & I St. JV (Gingery Devt & Bernstein) | 262 Harbor Drive          | 7,107  | New Lease | Real Estate          | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q2 2025 | Old Hill Partners                          | 1266 East Main Street     | 3,122  | New Lease | Financial Svcs.      | Stamford Non-CBD |

|         |                                   |                          |        |           |                   |                  |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|
| Q2 2025 | Mars & Co. Consulting             | 201 Tresser Boulevard    | 10,855 | New Lease | Consulting        | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Morgan Stanley                    | 4 Landmark Square        | 23,062 | Renewal   | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | First County Bank                 | 3001 Summer Street       | 19,683 | Renewal   | Banking           | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q2 2025 | Century America                   | 1266 East Main Street    | 2,398  | New Lease | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q2 2025 | Everest National Insurance        | 1 Landmark Square        | 8,153  | Renewal   | Insurance         | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Winget Spadafora & Schwartzberg L | 2187 Atlantic Street     | 3,112  | New Lease | Law               | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Spectrum Vision Management        | 2777 Summer Street       | 2,740  | Renewal   | Health Care       | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q2 2025 | Atlantic Group                    | 1266 East Main Street    | 3,221  | Renewal   | Employment Agency | Stamford Non-CBD |
| Q2 2025 | Fifth Season Financial            | 300 Atlantic Street      | 8,480  | New Lease | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | RockTree Capital                  | 2187 Atlantic Street     | 9,061  | New Lease | Financial Svcs.   | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Phibo                             | 600 Summer Street        | 2,029  | Renewal   | Energy Related    | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Counterpointe Sustainable RE      | 100 First Stamford Place | 10,764 | Expansion | Real Estate       | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Spine, LLC                        | 1 Landmark Square        | 875    | New Lease | Marketing/P.R.    | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Connecticut Community Bank        | 600 Summer Street        | 3,391  | Renewal   | Banking           | Stamford CBD     |
| Q2 2025 | Ultrabulk                         | 9 West Broad Street      | 2,025  | Renewal   | Shipping/Delivery | Stamford CBD     |

### Major Employers

| <b>EMPLOYER</b>                                 | <b>EMPLOYEES</b> | <b>RANK</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| City of Stamford (including Board of Education) | 5,204            | 1           |
| Stamford Health                                 | 4,100            | 2           |
| Charter Communications                          | 1,800            | 3           |

|   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| NBC Universal (NBC Sports & Stamford Studios) | 1,235         | 4 |
| Gartner                                       | 1,177         | 5 |
| Deloitte                                      | 1,100         | 6 |
| Indeed  | 745           | 7 |
| Synchrony Financial                           | 650           | 8 |
| PwC   | 490           | 9 |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>15,851</b> |   |

## Office of Administration

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The Office of Administration is responsible for the administration of municipal finance functions including but not limited to accounting, treasury, payroll, budgeting, purchasing, central services, grants, tax assessment and collection, risk management and information technology.

The Director of Administration is charged with the responsibility to develop, maintain, and improve the City's ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) and other financial systems, procedures, and internal controls; to execute financial and administrative decisions in an effective and accountable manner; and to advise the Mayor and the City's fiscal boards with respect to financial and administrative matters in accordance with the Charter, local ordinances, and State law to ensure that elected and appointed officials have appropriate information available to assist them in making financial decisions advantageous to the City and its taxpayers.

The Director provides executive leadership to all of the operating divisions within the Office of Administration and is responsible for the administration, supervision, and performance of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), Purchasing, the Grants Office, the Assessor's Office, the Tax and Revenue Collector's Office, the Controller's Office, Technology Management Services and Risk Management.

As the chief financial officer for the City, the Director of Administration has all of the customary powers of Town Treasurers and, as such, is responsible for the issuance of all municipal debt.

### *FY2024-25 Financial Highlights*

#### *Bonds and Bond Ratings*

In FY2024-25, the City did not issue any new General Obligation bonds. Stamford maintained its "AAA" bond rating—the highest rating possible— in a September 2025 review by S&P.

### *FY2024-25 Budget Highlights*

The total combined expense budget for the City and Board of Education, including the reserve for contingency, is \$680.2 million, reflecting a 4.73% increase over the previous fiscal year. The City government expense budget is proposed at \$339.6 million, covering operating expenses of \$208.0 million, employee benefits totaling \$78.1 million, and debt service obligations of \$52.8 million. The Board of Education's budget

was \$330.7 million, with an additional \$4.9 million of City support, representing a 5.5% increase over the prior year.

The FY2024-25 budget adhered to safe debt limits and focused on strategic investments for City infrastructure and services. Key investment areas include road maintenance, school infrastructure, public safety, health and welfare, parks, sustainability, and housing.

### *1. Operating Budget*

- Total Operating Budget: \$680,235,834
- Budget Increase: 4.73% from FY2023-24
- City Government Budget: \$339.6 million, including:
  - \$208.0 million in operating expenses
  - \$78.1 million allocated to employee benefits
  - \$52.8 million for debt service
- Board of Education Budget: \$330.7 million (an increase of 5.5% from the previous year)
- Contingency Reserve: \$5.0 million, requiring further appropriation by the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives for use.

### *2. State Aid*

- State Aid Received: \$32,869,926, covering 4.87% of the total budget.
- Impact Without State Aid: A 1.21 mill rate increase, or 5.12%, would have been necessary.

### *3. FY2024-25 Capital Budget*

The approved capital budget for FY2024-25 is \$60.7 million, with \$38.33 million funded through General Obligation Bonds. This budget remains under the 10% safe debt limit, containing debt service costs while focusing on critical infrastructure priorities, including school improvements, road and sidewalk maintenance, and pedestrian safety.

- Total Capital Spending: \$60,715,071
- Funding Sources:
  - General Obligation Bonds: \$38,333,694
  - State Grants: \$11,775,377
  - Federal Grants (including ARP): \$1,611,000
  - Capital Non-Recurring: \$5,870,000
- Category Breakdown:
  - Education: \$23,474,467
  - Traffic & Road Maintenance: \$11,720,330
  - Tech/Equip/Vehicles: \$4,075,000
  - Traffic Engineering: \$4,250,000
  - Parks & Recreation: \$4,000,000
  - Additional allocations include Public Safety, Facilities, Self-Supporting, and Outside Agencies.

### *4. Significant City Initiatives*

- Infrastructure & Safety:

- Investment in roads, sidewalks, and pedestrian safety
- Public Spaces:
  - City-wide parks strategic plan and online survey to enhance accessibility
- Public Services:
  - Opening of the Veterans Resource Center at Old Town Hall
  - Launch of Stamford’s first walk-in permitting center for City permits
- Website Accessibility: Improved multilingual support with over 100 languages available.

### 5. Growth and Federal/State Funding

- Grand List Growth: 9.71% increase.
- Secured Funding:
  - Over \$576 million in state reimbursements for school facilities

| <b>City Finances – Trends</b>                          |                |                |                |                |                      |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
|  | <b>2020-21</b> | <b>2021-22</b> | <b>2022-23</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25</b>       |
| Total Operating & Board of Education budget (millions) | \$589.5        | \$615.2        | \$626.1        | \$640.9        | \$675.2              |
| Average mill rate increase (%)                         | 0.00%          | 2.26%          | 0.97%          | (6.31%)        | (6.53%) <sup>1</sup> |
| Capital budget (millions)                              | \$42.3         | \$53.1         | \$55.5         | 88.9           | 60.7                 |

<sup>1</sup>The average mill rate in FY2023-24 was 25.26, which has been reduced to 23.61 in FY2024-25. This represents a decrease of 1.65 mills, or 6.53%. During these two years the City phased-in revaluation.

### Grants Office

The Grants Office provides grant development and management services for externally funded grants for the City of Stamford for operating and capital projects. The Grants Office supports the School Construction team in the application and administration of the school construction grants. For FY2025 the City of Stamford’s active school construction grant portfolio supports 19 open awards addressing renovations, improvements, or new construction activities. State funding to the City of Stamford for active school construction projects in FY2025 totaled \$551,356,881.32. The Grants Office supports, guides, and advises department staff through the full life cycle of grants from pre-award to post-award to closeout. This includes guiding grant awards through the Board of Finance and Board of Representatives approval processes, monitoring sub-awards, financial and programmatic reporting, submitting budget adjustments and programs, and facilitating financial and compliance audits. Open communication with the funding agency, Purchasing, Finance, OPM, and departments implementing projects and programs is maintained to maximize revenue and ensure proper utilization of grant funds. The Grants Office works with 17 federal, 18 State agencies, local funding agencies,

and several municipal operating departments to administer grant programs. The Office also provides staff support for the Tax Abatement Committee and Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

Between ongoing and new capital and operating grants, in FY2024-25 the Grants Office provided management for 300 active awards totaling just over \$375,000,000. This is in addition to the school construction and ARP funded activities that are supported by the grants office. The most significant increase in funding has been in the Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department with 38 capital project awards totaling just under \$115,000,000. Capital projects, which include projects from FEMA declared disasters, funding from federal and state competitive grants, and federal and state appropriations (not including school construction) make up 81 projects at \$120,000,000 of the total portfolio. The City continues to implement short-term capital improvement projects under the funding awarded by the U.S. Treasury with the American Rescue Plan Act funding. Thirty-three capital projects have expended nearly \$30,000,000 of the \$49,000,000 award as of the end of FY2025. Clean air, clean water, improvements to public facilities and public spaces have been the priority focus. Additionally, state CSFRF/ARP funding (\$2,000,000) from the state has supported community nonprofits and addressed vital services for the homeless, veterans, and low-income families. The Simmons administration added six new appropriations to the active project list including funding for parks and community centers. The Grants Office oversees the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) programs receiving just over \$956,000 in CDBG funds to support public services and public infrastructure projects that benefit low-income residents in Stamford, and just over \$500,000 in HOME funds to support low-income home ownership investments such as down payment assistance and owner-occupied rehabilitation. During FY2024-25 period the Office awarded 26 new public service and public infrastructure projects with CDBG funding and disbursed \$40,000 in downpayment loans through HOME.

| <b>Grants - Trends</b>       |                |                |                |                |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                              | <b>2020-21</b> | <b>2021-22</b> | <b>2022-23</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25</b> |
| Grants programs administered | 175            | 161            | 233            | 230            | 300            |
| Grant funds collected        | \$49,990,490   | \$44,260,492   | \$86,036,732   | \$51,284,469   | \$31,970,285   |

### *Office of Policy and Management (OPM)*

In FY2024-2025, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) maintained a balanced budget and continued to support City departments with financial forecasting, budget planning, and daily budget advice and management. Through careful oversight, OPM ensured a year-end approximately \$7.5M+surplus, driven by strong collections from supplemental auto taxes, prior-year collections, conveyance taxes, and building permits.

Key to Mayor Simmons’ budgetary successes has been growth in the City’s Grand List. The Grand List is the value of all taxable real estate, business personal property, and motor vehicles in the city. The Grand List rose from \$22.2 Billion for FY2022 up to \$27.3 Billion for FY2026, an increase of 23% (5.3% annually). That growth includes about 16% in values from the 2022 Revaluation and 6% from Organic Growth, which is

growth that results from new building activity, renovations, and acquisition of business personal property, but not from changes in market value or depreciation. This growth serves as a tailwind for the City budget, increasing revenue without increasing taxes on existing properties. Stamford's strong development climate has also benefitted City finances through strong building permit revenues. Recent strong building permit activity also portends greater organic growth once recent construction activity is completed and included in the Grand List.

The approved FY2024-25 budget reflects the City's commitment to fiscal responsibility, leveraging \$32,869,926 in aid from the State of Connecticut—equivalent to 4.87% of the total City and Board of Education budget. This aid avoided a potential increase of 1.21 mills or 5.12% in the City's average mill rate. OPM also worked closely with the Board of Finance and Board of Representatives to limit discretionary spending and ensure a responsible budget that provides essential services to Stamford residents.

In support of broader fiscal goals, OPM continued implementing the new Financial/Budget/Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP-EPM) and provided operational assistance to Central Services which managed all incoming and outgoing mail and delivered printing and duplicating services across City departments.

### *Budget Policy for the City of Stamford*

The City of Stamford's budget policy is built on the principles of responsible financial management, long-term sustainability, and strategic investment to support essential services and promote economic growth. The FY2024-25 budget reflects the City's commitment to these principles by aligning financial resources with the Mayor's vision of an equitable, accessible, and vibrant Stamford that balances residential and commercial tax impacts, enhances quality of life, and meets residents' needs. By following transparent processes, engaging the community, and aligning investments with strategic priorities, the City's FY2024-25 budget ensures a strong foundation for a resilient and thriving Stamford.

### *Policy Objectives*

***The City of Stamford's budget policy is designed to:***

- **Promote Fiscal Responsibility:** Ensure that all funds are allocated to maximize value and efficiency, strictly monitoring spending to avoid deficits.
- **Ensure Long-term Sustainability:** Balance immediate needs with the City's future obligations to maintain financial stability over time.
- **Support Economic Development:** Invest in infrastructure, education, and community resources that encourage business growth, create jobs, and foster economic resilience.
- **Maintain Equity and Accessibility:** Strive to distribute resources fairly across diverse communities, ensuring all residents benefit from City services and investments.

### *Guiding Principles*

**Transparency:** The budget process should be open, with all documentation readily available to the public. This includes providing clear explanations for budget decisions and ensuring community members understand how resources are allocated.

**Accountability:** City leaders and departments must be accountable for spending and budget management, with performance evaluations to measure efficiency and effectiveness.

**Efficiency:** The city seeks to make optimal use of limited resources by prioritizing high-impact services and implementing cost-saving measures wherever possible.

**Equity:** Budget allocations are designed to address the needs of Stamford's diverse population, promoting fairness in service distribution and ensuring access to essential services.

**Sustainability:** Decisions consider the long-term financial health of the City, minimizing risks by setting aside reserves, responsibly managing debt, and planning for future liabilities.

### *Budget Process*

The budget process in Stamford is a collaborative and transparent effort, led by the Mayor and involving the Board of Finance, the Board of Representatives, and City departments. Each fiscal year, the Mayor submits a proposed budget that reflects City priorities, which is then reviewed and revised by the Boards, considering public input gathered through hearings and community engagement.

**Key steps include:**

**Pre-Budget Planning:** Analysis of prior fiscal performance, evaluation of emerging needs, and identification of potential revenue sources.

**Drafting and Review:** Departments submit requests, aligning them with the City's strategic goals. The Mayor and OPM prepare a draft budget.

**Board's Review:** Mayor and the Department Heads present the proposed budget before the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives.

**Public Engagement:** Residents have multiple opportunities to provide feedback during public hearings, which is carefully reviewed by City leadership.

**Final Adoption:** The budget is finalized and formally adopted following revisions and approval by the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives.

### *Budget Priorities for FY2024-2025*

**The FY2024-2025 budget prioritized the following areas:**

- **Public Safety:** Investments to enhance police, fire, and emergency response resources, providing a safe environment for residents and businesses.
- **Education:** Continued investment in school infrastructure and educational resources to support Stamford's children and families.
- **Infrastructure:** Commitment to maintaining and upgrading roads, sidewalks, and public facilities to meet the needs of a growing population and support economic activity.
- **Economic Development:** Initiatives to foster business growth, attract new employers, and improve job opportunities.

- **Social Services and Health:** Funding for services that support the health, welfare, and housing needs of residents, including resources for food assistance, affordable housing, and healthcare access.

*Budget Management and Accountability*

To achieve effective budget management, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) monitors spending on a quarterly basis and provides real-time updates on financial performance to City leadership. Adjustments are made throughout the year to adapt to changes in revenue, costs, or unexpected needs.

**Capital Planning and Debt Management**

Capital improvement projects are prioritized based on their potential to enhance community wellbeing and long-term economic health. Stamford adheres to a safe debt limit policy, issuing debt only for high-priority capital investments that align with the City’s strategic plan. This ensures that debt service remains manageable, and that the City’s credit rating is preserved.

**Use of State and Federal Aid**

The FY2024-25 budget includes \$32,869,926 in aid from the State of Connecticut, representing 4.87% of the total City and Board of Education budget. This aid helps prevent a rise in the average mill rate by 1.21 mills, or 5.12%, easing the tax burden on residents. Additionally, the City actively pursues State and federal grants to supplement City revenues, reducing dependence on local taxpayer funding. This year, the City secured over \$576 million in State reimbursement for school facilities.

*Purchasing*

The Purchasing Department procures goods and services for all departments in the City including capital purchasing for the Board of Education. This centralized purchasing includes the preparation of all bids and requests for proposal documents, requisition review and purchase order approval. Subsequent to vendor award and contract, a centralized contracts database is maintained for city-wide use.

The Purchasing Department is currently staffed by 4 members: the Purchasing Manager, a Senior Buyer, a Buyer, and a Contract Compliance Officer.

During the year, the Purchasing Department administered and processed over 3,800 purchase orders for goods and services (does not include requests to increase, decrease or cancel); administered 65City competitive bids; 48 competitive proposals; awarded 29 contracts based on cooperative solicitations; 11 contracts based on State of Connecticut contracts; 1 GSA contracts; and 6 miscellaneous contracts. In addition, 100 contracts were extended; 100 Bid Waivers were authorized, of which 59 were on behalf of the City and 41 were on behalf of the WPCA.

The Department realizes a level of efficiency through use of an online vendor/bid system (ProcureWare). All Bids and Requests for Proposals are issued and retrieved by vendors electronically through the City’s Purchasing website. Vendors are required to register online and download bid documents.

| <b>Purchasing – Trends</b> |                |                |                |                |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                            | <b>2020-21</b> | <b>2021-22</b> | <b>2022-23</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25</b> |
|                            |                |                |                |                |                |

|   |              |               |               |               |               |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Purchase orders issued*   | 4,015        | 4,000+        | 3,541         | 3,402         | 3856          |
| Total Amount  | \$98,588,043 | \$105,221,748 | \$110,298,956 | \$127,602,120 | \$151,666,729 |
| Competitive bids  | 72           | 68            | 65            | 57            | 65            |
| Competitive proposals   | 38           | 44            | 33            | 57            | 48            |
| Contracts/amendments based on CT State contracts; miscellaneous & coops | 100          | 129           | 73            | 34            | 47            |
| GSA contracts   | 6            | 2             | 1             | 1             | 1             |
| Contracts extended  | 135          | 160           | 176           | 100           | 177           |
| Bid waivers processed (COS & WPCA)                                      | 211          | 204           | 146           | 86            | 100           |

*\*Does not include requests to increase, decrease or cancel. Numbers restated from prior year reports to reflect only the number of purchase orders issued by the COS Purchasing.*

### *Controller's Office*

The City Controller's Office is responsible for accounting and financial reporting, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, and treasury functions relating to cash management, debt service, and debt compliance. Its mission is to maintain financial management systems that produce timely and accurate information to aid in effective decision making for the Mayor's Administration, elected officials, citizens, creditors, investors, grantors, and other interested parties.

The City Controller's Office manages the accounting, accounts payable, treasury and payroll functions for both the City and the Board of Education and includes 50 separate and distinct funds including governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds and has responsibility for establishing accounting policies and procedures and implementing and monitoring internal control over financial reporting.

Across various financial banking institutions, the Controller and staff maintain, monitor, and optimize through efficient cash management, average cash balances and maximize earnings results (see chart below):

| <b>Controller - Results</b> |                |                |                                |                                   |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Year to Date</b>         | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25</b> | <b>YOY increase F25 vs F24</b> | <b>% YOY increase F25 vs. F24</b> |
| Avg Cash Balance (millions) | \$306.1        | \$330.4        | \$24.3                         | 7.9%                              |

|                               |        |        |       |       |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Interest Income<br>(millions) | \$13.3 | \$21.8 | \$8.5 | 64.2% |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|

Current initiatives and priority items:

- Complete fiscal year 2024 annual financial reporting audit and get City back on track to performing timely Annual Comprehensive Financial Reporting audit for the fiscal year 2025
- Develop and improve accounting system key financial reports required to achieve monthly, quarterly, and annual close processes.
- Completing reorganization plan in Controllers Office.
- Design, develop and execute financial close reporting processes and procedures.
- Implementing treasury banking wire transmittal processes to improve treasury approval workflow within Oracle accounting system to provide seamless and efficient reporting while maintaining strong internal controls.
- Implement new Lease Accounting software program.
- Continued ongoing development of Controllers Office staffing needs with improved group learning and training seminars.

### *Assessor's Office*

The Office of Assessment is responsible for establishing and maintaining fair and equitable property assessments, so each property owner bears an appropriate share of the tax burden. The Assessor's Office is responsible for accurately identifying, listing, and valuing all taxable property within the City of Stamford. The principal activity of the Department is the preparation of the annual Grand List which represents the total assessed value of all property. In establishing the Grand List, the department must determine values for approximately 38,526 real estate parcels, 120,692 motor vehicles, and 4,530 personal property accounts. The Property Revaluation Department is responsible for analyzing market trends for both residential and commercial properties as part of the implementation process of State-mandated revaluations.

In addition, the Assessor's Office administers property exemption programs as mandated by State statute, administers local senior tax relief and veterans' programs, files required reports with the State of Connecticut, and responds to numerous requests for information, primarily from the general public, local businesses, other City departments, and other cities and towns throughout the State.

The 2023 Net Grand List of all taxable property totaled \$27,089,585,859 an increase of \$2,398,124,767 from the 2022 Net Grand List. This increase was due to the second-year phase-in of increases occurred as a result of the city-wide property revaluation of all real estate effective for the October 1, 2022 Grand List year.

### *Board of Assessment Appeals*

The Board of Assessment Appeals is an official municipal agency. It is designed to serve as an appeal body for taxpayers who believe that City assessors erred in the valuation of their properties or erroneously denied them exemptions.

The Board is composed of persons who have been appointed by the Mayor of Stamford. The Board enables taxpayers to be heard by their peers at no expense. No fees are charged for the appeal process. Furthermore, taxpayers do not have to be represented by counsel.

*Revenue Collections Office*

*Revenue Collection Services and Cashiering & Permitting*

In conjunction with the City of Stamford’s new ERP project, the collection of multiple types of revenue has been consolidated and is now housed under one department. The eventual goal is to provide a convenient one-stop location open to residents and the general public for paying local taxes, permits, fees and charges without having to search for different departments throughout the Stamford Government Center. In January 2023, payments for Tax, Cashiering & Permitting and in-house Park and Recreation began to be accepted on the first floor of the newly remodeled collection office. Other departments will be phased in over time.

The Revenue Collection Department is also responsible for providing administrative support for all Cashiering & Permitting functions in addition to the wide array of customer service required in support of that process.

*Tax Collections Office*

*Tax Collection Department*

The Department directive is to maximize tax revenue due to the City. The Department has the responsibility to bill taxpayers, collect and process payments, deposit and control revenue received, provide an effective delinquent collection program (including the timely filing of tax liens), furnish appropriate records and reports, and reply to requests for information from taxpayers and others.

The total amount of taxes, interest, and lien fees (current and prior year) collected in FY2024-25 was \$637,820,213 an increase of \$4,929,781 from the previous year. Current year levy tax collections, including supplemental motor vehicle, were \$636,325,654 and total current and prior year levy tax collections were \$643,908,983.

The FY2024-25 levy tax collection rate for all property types was 99.10%. This was the fourteenth consecutive year that the collection rate exceeded 98% and the fifth consecutive year it has exceeded 99%.

The City continued its relationship with an outside vendor (EOS-CCA now TSI) to collect delinquent motor vehicle taxes and realized over \$2,490,885 in additional revenue with this program in FY2024-25.

| <b>Tax Collection - Trends</b>                   |                |                |                |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | <b>2020-21</b> | <b>2021-22</b> | <b>2022-23</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25</b> |
| Amount collected (including interest, lien fees) | \$575,413,213  | \$602,909,027  | \$605,156,229  | \$632,890,432  | \$637,820,213  |
| Increase from prior year                         | \$6,481,888    | \$27,495,814   | \$2,247,202    | \$27,734,203   | \$4,929,781    |
| Tax collection rate for all property types       | 99.30%         | 99.28%         | 99.01%         | 99.02%         | 99.10%         |

|                                |           |           |           |           |             |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Delinquent MVD taxes collected | \$700,000 | \$670,000 | \$717,229 | \$986,422 | \$2,490,885 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|

### *Risk Management*

The Risk Management Department’s principal responsibility is identifying enterprise-level risks and addressing the risk of losses through various mitigating techniques including: the purchase of insurance, administration of self-insured losses, safety and loss control, and budgeting/allocation of the cost of risk across various funds through a chargeback from the Risk Management Fund.

Some of the initiatives undertaken by Risk Management are departmental and facility risk assessments, training, incident investigations, and safety audits. Risk also participates in regulatory (i.e., OSHA) inspections of City and Board of Education facilities and assists in remediation of any issues found.

Risk oversees the management of Workers’ Compensation claims, meeting with adjusters and managers regularly to review the administration and handling of such claims. The Risk Manager also writes insurance requirements for, and reviews, all leases, contracts, grants, and all building use/special event permits. Risk Management handles property damage claims and manages that process in conjunction with the City’s insurance adjusters, insurance carriers, and internal and external legal counsel.

Safety is addressed by way of quarterly safety meetings, hazard analyses, risk assessments, implementation and writing of various safety policies, post-accident investigations, FMCSA requirements (CDL random drug testing), OSHA compliance (through inspections/employee complaints), and most importantly, safety training for all departments.

Safety programs include: First Aid/CPR/Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) training, PMT Certified Restraint training for schools, Back Injury Prevention, Personal Protective Equipment, Blood Borne Pathogens, Power Industrialized Trucks (PIT), Asbestos Awareness, Slip Trips and Falls Prevention, Fleet Safety Policy, Fire Safety including evacuation training, Active Shooter training, Work Zone Safety, Flagging on Public Roadways, Hazardous Communications, Lockout Tag Out and FIT Testing and Respirator training.

There were 472 worker injuries reported during the fiscal year compared to the prior year adjusted total of 498, a decrease of 26 claims or 5% but at a higher projected cost of +\$1 million.

The 1,382 training events provided to employees during the fiscal year focused not only on OSHA mandated training but also on reducing losses in categories with the highest rates of incidence and severity.

As shown in the table below, Slip, Trip & Falls was the leading cause of injuries.

| <i>Fiscal 2024-2025 injuries greater than 10% of Total</i>                |                |            |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Type  | # of Incidents | % of Total |
| Due to Others (Caused by others, combative subject, violence, Police/BOE) | 90             | 19%        |
| Slip, Trip, & Falls (All ice, wet, objects, stairs, ladders, etc.)        | 111            | 24%        |
| Overexertion (All lifting, bending/twisting, push/pull, strain)           | 86             | 18%        |

| <b>Risk Management – Trends</b>     |                |                |                |                |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                     | <b>2020-21</b> | <b>2021-22</b> | <b>2022-23</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25</b> |
| City/BOE Injuries                   | 500*           | 585**          | 487            | 498            | 472            |
| Trained Employees by Safety Officer | 915            | 1,420          | 2,654          | 1,623          | 1,382          |

\* Includes 63 First-Responder COVID-19 exposures

\*\*Includes 113 First Responder COVID-19 exposures

### *Information Technology (IT)*

In FY2025, the IT department is investing in leveraging transformative technology and modernizing existing infrastructure to improve the overall quality of City services, making them more efficient, transparent and accessible for every resident, business and visitor.

Under new leadership, the department is actively engaging with all City departments and the Board of Education to understand departmental objectives, identify gaps and opportunities, and propose and execute a roadmap for creating a target state architecture and putting in place an operating model. Partnering with our colleagues in Public Safety, Operations, Purchasing, Law, and City Administration: the IT department plans to ideate and implement metrics-driven policing and crime prevention, and faster emergency response and coordination using data analytics.

To keep our skills in sync with changing dynamic industry needs, IT is partnering with Human Resources to review current roles and update job descriptions. The Department is leveraging operating budget to bring in outside subject matter expertise where needed to kick-start essential roadmap activities such as process mapping and driving cybersecurity and risk assessments.

To safeguard the City’s systems, the Department is expanding protections by implementing city-wide endpoint detection and response systems, conducting Security Operations Center (SOC) testing, and improving the City’s incident response and recovery procedures by creating persistent artifacts including, but not limited to, a Cybersecurity Incident Response plan, Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR) plan, a city-wide technology risk appetite statement, and an Artificial Intelligence Usage Policy.

The technical aspect of the digital transformation and systems modernization is built upon three pillars:

**Pillar 1, Cloud Computing:** To improve our overall service delivery and improving cost efficiency and flexibility, the IT department has undertaken the Azure VMWare data center migration project. The project goal is to fully refresh this environment with new hardware (hosts and storage) as well as the appropriate VMWare platform. The City of Stamford has an existing Azure implementation which would be used in deploying Azure VMWare Services. The latest phase of the Modern Work Transformation has been to upgrade the legacy telephone system to MS Teams IP telephones. Work will continue through the end of 2025 and into 2026 to migrate every department onto this state-of-the-art communication solution.

IT continues to support the rollout of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution, specifically the Online Permitting and Licensing (OPAL) project, for which IT is conducting critical data quality checks, a key step before live data is mapped to the target Oracle OPAL module.

**Pillar 2, Cyber-Security:** Safeguarding resident data and building resilience against evolving threats continues to be a strategic objective for the IT department. Hardening our on-premises infrastructure by conducting regular network domain and security scans and rolling out an endpoint protection tool that includes desktop anti-virus and anti-malware (Microsoft Defender) and its mobile counterpart (Microsoft Intune) is a key priority. Lastly, improving the City’s overall cybersecurity knowledge by running phishing awareness campaigns, integrating cybersecurity knowledge domains with routine HR-mandated training modules will ensure that the City is investing in an employee knowledgebase to safeguard resident and business data.

**Pillar 3, Data Analytics:** Enhancing public safety and improving transparency are two key drivers for this pillar. A featured project for this year is to more closely integrate the City’s Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) and its Records Management System (RMS). A unified data warehouse will be built for reporting and analysis, and will yield the following benefits:

- Ensure that incident data flows seamlessly from dispatch through case closure, and an connect dispatch activity with outcomes, locations and times.
- Reduce administrative workload by creating fewer duplicate data entries and automating routine data sharing between intra-City systems (i.e., within Stamford) and inter-City systems (i.e., with other cities within Connecticut).
- Improved data integrity and auditability by having consistent time-stamped records from dispatch through reporting.

## Office of Public Safety, Health & Welfare

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See Attachment No. 1 for the Office of Public Safety, Health & Welfare Report.

## Office of Operations

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See Attachment No. 2 for the Office of Operations Report.

## Office of Legal Affairs

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LAW DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

During Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the Director of Legal Affairs & Corporation Counsel, along with the Deputy Corporation Counsel and eight staff attorneys, rendered 20 formal legal opinions to city departments, agencies, boards and commissions and provided countless informal opinions to various departments, agencies, boards and commissions. The department also drafted a number of ordinances and resolutions for consideration by the Board of Representatives at its or the Mayor’s request, and appeared before numerous boards and commissions to provide ongoing counsel on both procedural and substantive issues. Additionally,

the Law Department worked with the Purchasing Department to draft, review, approve and process several hundred contracts, agreements, requests for proposal and bid waivers.

The Law Department also provides legal services to the Board of Education (including in tort claims and lawsuits, discrimination claims and contract disputes). In addition to representing the Board in litigation and drafting and reviewing contracts as requested, this office advises the Board on special education matters, employment issues and Freedom of Information issues. The City bills the Board of Education \$385,787, the salary of two-full time attorneys.

A total of 148 claims were filed against the City this fiscal year, including vehicular tort claims, highway defect claims and a variety of personal injury and property damage claims. This department was responsible for collecting \$516,436.64 for damage to City vehicles and property. A total of 21 tax appeals for the 2024 grand list and 48 lawsuits were instituted against the City, including personal injury, contract, employment and tort claims, as well as administrative appeals from City Boards.

The Law Department assists and advises all City Departments with Freedom of Information requests and represents the City and Board of Education before the Freedom of Information Commission.

During the year, the Law Department handled delinquent tax matters. The Law Department attempts to resolve these matters in-house and when necessary, the matters are referred to outside counsel for resolution

## Office of I.D.E.A.S.

# Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility Strategies for Stamford

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As the 19<sup>th</sup> most diverse city in America, Stamford's I.D.E.A.S. commitment isn't just policy, it's a promise to every resident that opportunity and respect are foundational in city life. This year's initiatives showcase how our vibrant community, local leadership, and organizational backbone work together to shape the future, break barriers, and celebrate what unites us.

## Benefits of diverse teams

- Diversity is a skillset™
- Better problem-solving and decision making
- Expanded creativity and better innovation
- Increased competitive advantage
- Broader access to more revenue streams
- Improved access to the global marketplace



The world is changing fast, and our neighborhoods are living proof that diversity strengthens economies, builds resilience, and fuels innovation. The response of our community to work together to keep our immigrant families informed and safe was a beautiful thing to be a part of and witness. We recognize that in times marked by this type of social and economic complexity, it creates an opportunity for communities to be bold enough to embrace inclusion and equity in ways to model for others to follow.

In efforts to boost cultural awareness and create spaces of inclusion, the City has hosted several employee and citywide events to recognize and celebrate diversity. All have been met with a lot of enthusiasm and requests for more. To name a few, here are some examples of how the City has acknowledged and celebrated the diversity of our City:

- **Flag Raising Ceremonies:** Hosted over 40 flag raising ceremonies for various countries, religions, and organizations. We encourage all to attend. These ceremonies mark as great opportunities to share culture and traditions with one another. The more we know the better we can grow together with understanding and empathy.
- **Cultural Celebrations:**
  - This year, the rain did not spot the Juneteenth parade from Government Center through downtown to Mill River Park.
  - We also hosted a beautiful Diwali celebration with delegates from local organizations and employees.
  - In December, we will host our 28<sup>th</sup> Kwanzaa celebration in the lobby hosted by the Ferguson library.
- **Stamford Kindness Project:**
  - Our focus this year will be food Insecurity in response to the ripple effect on SNAP and other government subsidies due to the Federal shutdown.
  - **PROJECT #1:** Kicking off a weekly “food drive” on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> is WORLD Kindness Day. Volunteers will advocate shoppers to consider donating a non-perishable item to our food drive. Donated food will be distributed to 4 different local pantries
  - **PROJECT #2:** Volunteers will paint kindness rocks to place all over the city.

### *Spotlight on Veterans: Amplifying Service and Recognition*

February 2026 will mark our 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Stamford Veterans Resource Center (SVRC). Collectively the work of the volunteers has done much to help the 3,000+ veterans in our community and the 18,000 registered in lower Fairfield County. The mission of the SVRC is for veterans and their families to have a place to be empowered, directed and connected to the resources available to them. The center is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This past year, we partnered with the VETCenter of Westchester County which allows us to now offer free mental health counseling straight from our center.

In September we hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Veterans Stand Down in partnership with CT Veteran Affairs. Once again, we packed the foyer of the UCONN Stamford Campus with over 70 vendors who gave away valuable resources to veterans from manicures and winter coats to free license renewals and plates from CT DMV to over 100 veterans.

This year brought fierce advocacy for Stamford veterans. Thanks to the ongoing collaboration and community activism, the Stamford Veterans Resource Center played a critical role to “SAVE” the Stamford Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). After learning the VA as going to close the Stamford location on

Summer Street, the veterans quickly joined forces to advocate to local, state and federal officials. After much hard work and determination, the lease for the space for the CBOC was extended for another year. While this was considered a victory, we realize that there is more work to be done to protect critical healthcare services for local veterans during uncertain times.

Added to these healthcare victories, the Mayor swiftly responded to the veteran's request for more tax benefits. In October, 2025 we enacted tax benefit ordinances, ensuring Stamford Veteran residents receive well-deserved tax relief and recognition. In summary, the City of Stamford is expanding their tax benefits to include the following 2 additional exemption options:

1. Exemption for Disabled Veteran with Total Disability Individual Unemployability (TDIU) Rating as determined by Veterans Affairs. This program has an annual re-filing requirement. Qualified recipients would receive 100% exemption on their real estate dwelling.
2. Exemption for veterans who are not eligible for the Basic Veteran Exemption and Disabled Veteran Exemption. This program has income & biennially re-filing requirements. Qualified recipients would receive \$5,000 exemption off their property assessment.

IDEAS also shines through the annual Patriotic and Special Events Commission's parades. Twice a year, the commission puts on a grand spectacular parade for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. These two events are more than tradition: it's a meaningful public celebration of service, unity, and gratitude, drawing neighbors from every background.

### *Disability Inclusion: Action, Advocacy, Impact*

Inclusion is a call to action and shapes the culture of an organization. In July, the City hosted a grand celebration and walk at Cove Island in celebration of 35 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

We also hired UsableNet to overhaul our StamfordCT.gov website to ensure it is fully accessible to all. While more work needs to be done, Stamford is now in compliance ahead of the August 2026 deadline that requires all digital content to be fully accessible.

Stamford also set a new benchmark with its inaugural Disability Resource and Job Fair, on October 3<sup>rd</sup> bringing together over 150 participants and over 40 vendors showcasing valuable services and job opportunities. The energetic buzz throughout the room, was a clear commitment to inclusion and opportunity that exists here in Connecticut. During this fair we were fortunate to have Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas; Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Labor, Danté Bartolomeo; and Director of the Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitative Services, David Doukas speak about their respective work and commitment to equity during the lunch session. Their messages underscored the importance of the work we are all doing together.

Through our relationship and partnership with the Department of Aging and Disability Services, the City has been able to offer "On-The-Job" training internships. To date, we have employed 3 employees who are on the spectrum of Autism and 3 people who are blind or legally blind. Doing what we can to help individuals living with a disability to have access to independent living with dignity and pride is at the core of what we do.

Every day we continue to make progress to assure better accessibility and full inclusion for all is not an afterthought, but rather integrated into the way the city operates and executes all projects. Getting this right is imperative. The CDC reports that 1 in 5, (22%), of people in Connecticut identify as living with a disability

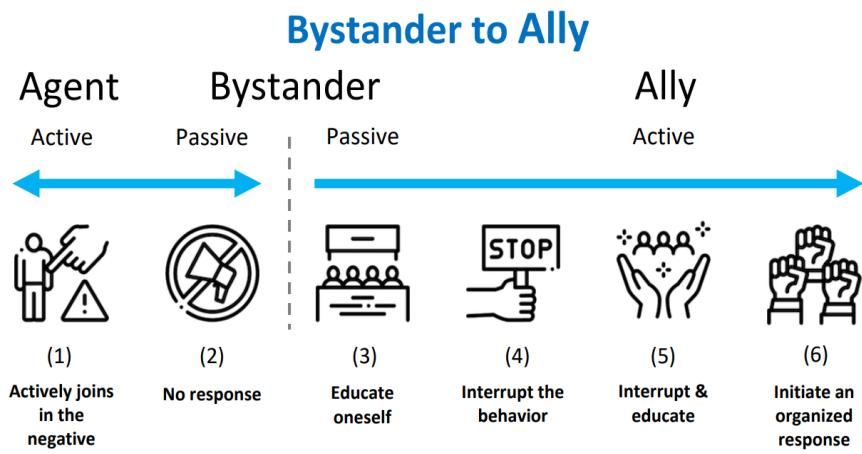
(neuro and physical). Under the ADA, a person qualifies as disabled if they have significant difficulties executing activities of daily living.

This year, much time and dedication were put to ensure policies were crafted and adopted to ensure a more inclusive and accessible city for all. We have also hosted two dedicated training workshops for neighboring municipal ADA Coordinators to help them understand the valuable role they play to provide reasonable modifications and accommodations. Recognizing many people don't know what they don't know, we have also put together friendly guides and checklists to ensure an event is accessible for all from marketing to execution.

### *Training for Belonging: The Workplace Evolution*

This year's partnership with the Career Development Leadership and Training Manager resulted in a transformative 6 part "Catalyst Leaders Program". Session on inclusive leadership, empathetic problem solving and allyship went beyond theory, empowering

city's staff at every level to lead and collaborate with authenticity. We also launched a new 2-hour training for all employees: "Unlocking Our Collective Potential". Using immersive activities, employees experienced firsthand how diverse experience shape team engagement and workplace achievement.

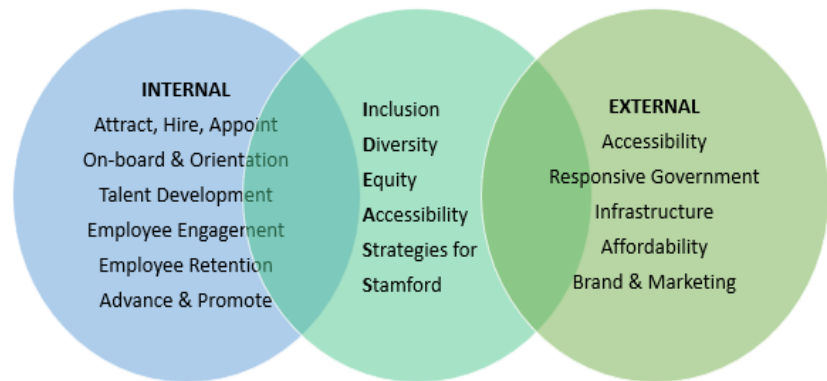


Karen Bradberry, PhD

- Facilitated I.D.E.A.S. training internally and externally
  - Training for employees just launched in in the third quarter and we are trained by about 10% of City of Stamford employees with a target of at least 50% trained by June.
  - Also restarted the circuit of training for our non-profit organizations. A few have witnessed the "Unlocking Our Collective Potential" and have requested it for their employees.

## Summary

In summary, The Office of I.D.E.A.S. interacts and interconnects with all constituents from an internal and external perspective. Internally, we look at the full employee lifecycle and externally, we look at our residents and businesses with a lens of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility.



## Human Resources

The Department of Human Resources is responsible for administering the Classified Service Rules, conducting examinations for competitive City positions, and overseeing the development of job descriptions and job analyses. The department manages the recruitment and hiring process, provides administration of employee benefits, and administers both the Classified Employees Retirement Fund and the Custodian and Mechanics Retirement Fund.

Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, the Division advanced several priority initiatives:

**Benefits Administration Unit:** Oversaw the full cycle of employee benefits, including health insurance and Medicare-related support. Staff coordinated with external partners to address employee and retiree needs and ensured compliance with evolving regulations.

**Career Development, Leadership & Training Unit:** As part of its strategic commitment to workforce development and organizational excellence, the Department of Human Resources created the **City of Stamford Leadership and Training Institute** to serve as the central entity for employee education and professional development. Its mission is to strengthen workforce capabilities, prepare employees for leadership roles, and enhance the effectiveness of current leaders. Training programs are guided by comprehensive needs assessments conducted through departmental surveys and post-training evaluations. In FY25, following a competitive RFP process, the City partnered with Vidl Work, a nationally recognized firm specializing in leadership and culture development for public-sector organizations. Vidl Work brings a human-centered, practical approach to strengthening workplace culture and leadership capacity. In addition to leadership development, the Institute continues to offer essential training, including state-mandated sexual harassment and ethics programs, computer skills development, financial literacy, and career readiness initiatives in partnership with local colleges and universities. The Institute actively engages in community career fairs and continuously refines its program offerings based on systematic assessments of organizational priorities and workforce needs.

**HRIS Management Unit:** The HRIS team ensures accurate and secure employee data management, supporting payroll, benefits, and retirement processing for all City employees and retirees. From July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, the team administered compliance reporting (including ACA, pension, and OPEB), managed system security and data audits, processed contract-driven pay and benefit changes, and coordinated with vendors on system enhancements. HRIS also partnered in Citywide technology initiatives,

including payroll and time/attendance modernization efforts, while maintaining uninterrupted daily operations.

***Human Resources Administration Unit:*** a) Recruitment and Hiring - Supported City departments in attracting and selecting qualified candidates for a wide range of positions, while maintaining impartiality and compliance with City hiring policies. Examination administration and classification work remained a central component of this process; b) Strategic HR Initiatives - Partnered with leadership on workforce planning, professional development, and discussions around DEI and accessibility to strengthen the City’s overall talent strategy; and c) Compliance and Investigations-Conducted internal investigations into workplace complaints and ensured adherence to applicable City policies, procedures, and employment laws.

***Labor Relations Unit:*** Successfully negotiated and administered multiple collective bargaining agreements, working closely with union leadership to maintain constructive labor–management relations. This Unit also supported grievance resolution and contract interpretation throughout the year.

***Retirement and Pension Benefits Unit:*** Administered the Classified Employees Retirement Fund (CERF) and the Custodian and Mechanics Retirement Fund (CMRF). Staff provided counseling and support to employees preparing for retirement, processed new retirements, and addressed pension buyback and service credit inquiries. The department also collaborated with plan trustees and finance officials to ensure compliance with governing policies and to safeguard the integrity of the retirement systems.

The table below lists each employee representative, along with the current contract term and the number of employees represented.

| <b><i>Bargaining Unit</i></b>                            | <b><i>Term of CBA Agreement</i></b> | <b><i>Employee Count</i></b> |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Assistant Corp. Counsels                                 | 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2025                | 9                            |
| Custodians & Maint. Workers                              | 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2025                | 148                          |
| Dental Hygienist   | 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2027                | 4                            |
| Fire Local 786   | 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2027                | 247                          |
| IUOE Local 30 – Operations (excludes seasonal employees) | 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2027                | 137                          |
| IUOE Local 30 WPCA                                       | 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2025                | 29                           |
| MAA Supervisors  | 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2026                | 130                          |
| Nurses Association                                       | 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2026                | 39                           |
| Police Association                                       | 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2026                | 264                          |
| UAW (excludes seasonal employees)                        | 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2025                | 350                          |
| Pay Plan (nonunion)                                      | n/a                                 | 41                           |
| <b>Total Full-Time Employees</b>                         |                                     | <b>1398</b>                  |

## Part II – Education

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See Attachment No. 4 for the Stamford Public Schools Report

## Part III - Elected & Select Appointed Boards

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### *31<sup>st</sup> Board of Representatives*

The 31st Board of Representatives took office on December 1, 2021. Elected were thirty-six (36) Democrats and four (4) Republicans. Since the election, fourteen (14) representatives have resigned. The Board meets in regular sessions on the first Monday of each month. A Steering Committee meeting is held each month to set the agenda for the following month.

During the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, the Appointments Committee recommended sixty-eight (68) mayoral appointments to various boards and commissions. In addition, the Committee recommended appointment of two (2) civil citation officers and one (1) vacancies on Elective Boards or elected public official positions.

The Fiscal Committee evaluated 100 appropriations; 21 grants resolutions; 46 resolutions authorizing the issuance of bonds; agreements related to actuarial services and professional auditing services; as well as the operating and capital budgets for FY 2024-25. The Fiscal Committee also monitors progress on capital projects and close-outs/reallocations, bid waivers, contract bids, grant funds and the contingency fund. It also reviews annual financial reports, and applications and agreements to obtain grant funds.

During Fiscal Year 2024-25, 91 total resolutions, 74 resolutions and 7 ordinances were passed by the Board, with 17 of those being honorary resolutions. Significant legislation included:

- An ordinance amending Chapter 231, Section 231-73.A to add Cove Road at Frederick Street and Cove Road at Soundview Avenue to the prohibition on blocking the box
- An ordinance amending Chapter 231, Article VI, concerning motorized recreational vehicles and electric personal assistive mobility devices
- An ordinance concerning a tax abatement agreement among the City of Stamford and Oak Park Phase 2 Limited Partnership and the Housing Authority of the City of Stamford for 43 below-market units located at Ursula Place, Stamford, CT
- An ordinance amending Chapter 164, concerning the regulation of operation and use of external speakers attached to motor vehicles
- An ordinance amending Chapter 72 alcoholic beverages, Sections 72-2, concerning the sale and consumption on municipal property
- An ordinance to add Chapter 6A, Article 1 concerning appointments for vacancies and holdover appointees on appointive Boards And Commissions established in Chapter 6 [*\*vetoed by Mayor Simmons*]
- An ordinance amending Chapter 40 of the Code Of Ordinances, to add Article LV, Sections 40-199 through 40-202- Director Of Emergency Communications Center

- An ordinance concerning a tax abatement agreement between the City of Stamford and Augustus Manor Preservation, L.P. and Augustus Manor Associates Limited Partnership for 105 below-market units located at 101 Main Street, Stamford, CT
- An ordinance amending Chapter 209 of the Code of Ordinances, concerning sustainability and the regulation of single-use food ware in food establishments
- An ordinance amending Chapter 155 of the Code of Ordinances concerning lighting and the enforcement of exterior lighting standards
- A resolution amending City of Stamford Parks and Recreation Commission Regulations set By Resolution 3889
- A resolution authorizing Mayor Caroline Simmons to execute a Grant Agreement with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the Cooler Stamford Heat Resilience Action Plan
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the East Harbor Canal Retaining Wall Project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for an EMPG Pool Grant
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the State of CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection/Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for the Regional EMPG Pool Grant Award
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the CT Department of Children and Family for the Summer Youth Employment Grant
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the Connecticut Department of Transportation for Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement Program
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the West Side Neighborhood Connector Project
- A resolution approving a lease amendment between the City of Stamford and the United States of America for office space on the 9th floor of the Stamford Government Center for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Environmental and Energy Protection
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Connecticut Children's Medical Center for financial assistance to continue the Community Violence Intervention & Prevention Services Grant project
- A resolution approving the 2025 Board of Representatives Calendar
- A resolution appointing members of the Board of Representatives to attend hearings of the Planning Board in preparation of a proposed Capital Program
- A resolution related to the application for Non-Priority Solar Photovoltaic Purchase and Installation Grant for Westover Rooftop PV Panel Installation Project

- A resolution related to the application for Non-Priority Solar Photovoltaic Purchase And Installation Grant for Strawberry Hill Rooftop PV Panel Installation Project.
- A resolution approving a License and Use Agreement by and between the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford and the Stamford Public Schools for the use of classroom space at 347 Stillwater Avenue
- A resolution approving a License and Operating Agreement between the City of Stamford and Oh My Gosh LLC for management and operation of full food services at the Government Center Patio Café 1st and 4th Floor
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for Weed Avenue multi-use trail design
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with USDA, Forest Service for the Inflation Reduction Act Growing Together Stamford Project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Cities for the Financial Empowerment Fund for the Summer Youth Employment Program.
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for 2023 Public School Security Competitive Grant Program Award
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for Phase H Traffic Signal Upgrade
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for Long Ridge Road Improvements
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for Springdale TOD Implementation
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for Government Center front sidewalk improvements
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Protection for an Auto Theft Task Force
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with Stamford Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) for the Stamford Transportation Center (STC) Garage Mural Project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) for the Stamford Transportation Center (STC) Garage Mural Project
- A resolution approving amendments to Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations

- A resolution approving the Director of Administration's Final Report dated September 4, 2024, concerning the discontinuance of a portion of Garden Street, Stamford, Connecticut, between Dock Street and Manhattan Street and directing that such discontinuance be carried out
- A resolution authorizing Mayor Caroline Simmons to execute a Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Projects with the Connecticut Department of Transportation
- A resolution regarding designation of outside counsel pursuant to Charter Sec. C1-90-1 to help determine the Board of Representatives course of action regarding statements of Representative Anabel Figueroa
- A resolution Authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign an Agreement with the CT Secretary of State for SOTS ARPA grant for early voting
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit the Year 50 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Program of the City of Stamford, CT
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign an agreement with the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for the State ARPA-CSFRF FY 2025 Grant for funding three projects: the warming centers for the homeless; for the Yerwood Center renovations focused on improvements such as security infrastructure; and for digital technology
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the CT Department of Children and Families for the Summer Youth Employment Grant.
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Agreement with the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for financial assistance for the Byrne-JAG Funding 2022-2025 Grant Project
- A resolution supporting the zoning of City parks as Designated Parkland
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign agreements with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Stamford Bioswales Initiative Project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into and sign an agreement with the Department of Justice
- A resolution renaming a portion of Ursula Place as Courtney Nelthropp Way
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the CT Department of Transportation/LOTICIP for financial assistance for the City Pedestrian Signal Upgrades project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with CT Department of Transportation/LRARP for financial assistance for the Broad Street Safety Improvements Project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the CT Department of Transportation/LOTICIP for financial assistance for the Glenbrook Road and Church Street Intersection reconstruction project.
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Federal Transit Administration for approval of an extension to the Stamford Urban Transitway project previously awarded to the City of Stamford.
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the CT Department of Transportation/OPM for financial assistance for the Washington Blvd and Richmond Hill Project

- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the CT Department of Transportation/LOTICIP for financial assistance for the North State Street Gateway Project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the CT Department of Transportation/LOTICIP for financial assistance for the Gridsmart Phase 2 project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the CT Department of Transportation/CIF for financial assistance for the Lower Atlantic Street Reconstruction Project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the CT Department of Transportation/LOTICIP for financial assistance for the Lower Atlantic Street Reconstruction Project
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the USDOT FHWA for financial assistance for the Safe Routes to Schools Sidewalks 2022 Project.
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the USDOT FHWA for financial assistance for the Safe Routes to Schools Sidewalks 2024 Project.
- A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the USDOT FHWA for financial assistance for the Safe Routes to Schools Sidewalks Project.
- A resolution urging the Connecticut General Assembly to adopt House Bill No. 6832, An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Prohibit the Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits in Pet Shops
- A resolution regarding the preferred alternative for replacing the West Main Street Bridge (A.K.A. the Purple Bridge)
- A resolution to pledge to treat others with dignity
- A resolution adopting the Board Of Education budget Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 To June 30, 2026
- A resolution adopting the Operating Budget (including General Fund Support to the Board of Education Budget) Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 To June 30, 2026
- A resolution adopting the Capital Budget Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 To June 30, 2026
- A resolution adopting the Debt Service Fund, Anti-Blight Programs Fund, Grants Fund, Stamford Harbor Management Fund, Marina Operating Fund, Parking Fund, Police Extra Duty Fund, EG Brennan Golf Course Fund, Terry Conners Ice Rink Fund, Active Medical Fund, Risk Management Fund, And WPCA Fund Budgets For The Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 To June 30, 2026
- A resolution approving a sublease between Optimus Health Care, Inc. and the City of Stamford, CT located at 138 Stillwater Avenue for City's health Clinic (Displaced from Lathon Wider Center)
- A resolution approving a proposed 1st Amendment to the City's 2023 lease of space on the 10th Floor of the Government Center to Congressman Himes
- A resolution urging the administration, the Board Of Finance and the Planning Board to appropriate Capital Funds to fix Scofield Manor.
- A resolution amending the City of Stamford Parks and Recreation Commission Parks & Recreation Facility Regulations, per Code §175-1 (adopted by the Board of Representatives Res. 3889 and Amended by Resolution 4287)
- A resolution regarding the appropriation and bond authorization for Julia Stark Elementary Priority Project Financing and for School Construction Grant

- A resolution approving submittal of attached list of programs to the State Department of Revenue Services in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act
- A resolution affirming the City Of Stamford's commitment to protecting and honoring Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals

There are several other committees whose membership worked to bring about the above-listed accomplishments. These committees are: Steering, Legislative & Rules, Land Use-Urban Redevelopment, Operations, Public Safety & Health; Parks and Recreation; Education; Housing/Community Development/Social Services; State & Commerce, and Transportation.

In addition, the Board dissolved the Special Committee formed to review a possible settlement of High Ridge Real Estate Owner LLC v. Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford litigation involving the Board of Representatives' decision in an appeal from decision of the Zoning Board, as the case was completed. The Board was represented by outside counsel due to a conflict of interest by the City's Legal Department.

Since March 16, 2020, the Board has held all Board meetings and committee meetings either remotely or by a combination of in-person and remotely in order to preserve the health of Board members, City staff and the public. The Board has strived to ensure that members of the public have numerous pathways to participate in these meetings safely, including enabling public viewing of all meetings and enabling members of the public to sign up to speak at or submit written comments for public hearings or during the public participation session of Board meetings.

### *Board of Finance*

| <b>Board Members</b>             | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Richard Freedman (D), Chair      | November 30, 2025   |
| Mary Lou T. Rinaldi (Vice-Chair) | November 30, 2027   |
| Geoff Alswanger (D)              | November 30, 2027   |
| Mark McGrath (R)                 | November 30, 2025   |
| Laura Burwick (D)                | November 30, 2027   |
| J.R. McMullen                    | November 30, 2025   |

Established and governed by the City of Stamford Charter, the Board of Finance is an elected body authorized with specific powers and duties related to the City's finances. The Board's duties include examining requests for additional appropriations; investigating and determining the fiscal policies of the City; approving the Mayor's Proposed Operating, Special Funds, and Capital budgets, and the proposed Board of Education budget; transmitting the approved budgets to the Board of Representatives for final approval; and determining and fixing the tax rates in each of the city's tax districts. The Board of Finance may also determine the type of bonds relating to the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds and bond anticipation notes.

The Board of Finance is composed of six members, each of whom hold office for a four (4) year term. Board members are elected by Stamford voters in citywide elections for staggered terms – one half of the membership is elected at each biennial municipal election. The members serve without compensation.

The Board of Finance hold its regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month, unless changed by resolution of the Board. These meetings are held in the Board of Finance Meeting Room, located on the Fourth Floor, Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. Meetings are open to the public and

include a period of time, not to exceed 30 minutes, at the opening of each meeting for the public to address the Board on any item on the meeting agenda.

In addition to regular meetings, special meetings may be called by the Mayor or by any two members of the Board to address urgent issues or requests. The Board also holds hearings on the Mayor’s Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets and the Board of Education’s proposed budget. The Board then votes on these budgets which they may accept, reject, or reduce on a line-item basis.

The Office of the Board of Finance is staffed by a permanent part-time Clerk/Staff Person and its office is located on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Stamford Government Center.

### *Planning Board*

- See Operations/Land Use Section.

### *Zoning Board*

- See Operations/Land Use Section.

### *Zoning Board of Appeals*

- See Operations/Land Use Section.

### *Tax Assessment Board of Appeals*

The Assessor’s Office is responsible for preparing the annual Grand List of both taxable and exempt property located within the City of Stamford. The Grand List consists of all Real Estate, Motor Vehicles, and Business Personal Property Assets. In addition, all exemptions and benefits authorized under State and local law are processed in a timely manner.

The Net Taxable Grand List for October 1, 2023 after the Board of Assessment Appeals is:

| <b>Tax Assessment – At a Glance</b> |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                     | <b>Net Taxable</b>    |
| Real Estate                         | 24,360,431,158        |
| Motor Vehicle                       | 1,353,450,411         |
| Personal Property                   | 1,375,704,290         |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>27,089,585,859</b> |

| <b>Mill Rates – At a Glance</b> |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                 | <b>FY 24-25 Mill Rates</b> |
| District A                      | 23.36                      |
| District B                      | 22.92                      |
| District C                      | 22.76                      |
| District CS                     | 23.14                      |
| Auto                            | 27.25                      |
| Personal Property               | 27.17                      |

| <b>Tax Assessment – Trends</b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Tax Assessment</b>          | <b>2020-21</b>   | <b>2021-22</b>   | <b>2022-23</b>   | <b>2023-24</b>   | <b>2024-25</b> |
| Net Grand List                 | \$21,966,307,423 | \$22,197,720,643 | \$22,711,315,415 | \$24,691,461,092 | 27,089,585,859 |

*All taxable property (October 1)*

*Fiscal year 2024-2025 is a second year of a 2 year phase-in of real estate increases that was implemented to minimize the impact of the Oct. 1, 2022 property revaluation.*

### *Board of Ethics*

Please see attached Annual Report of the Board of Ethics (Attachment No. 3).

### *Other Boards and Commissions*

Minutes & Agendas, along with video recordings of the proceedings of several of the commissions can be accessed through this webpage - <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions>. (Additional non-city commissions are listed on the City website, including various Charter Oak property boards.)

|                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Affordable Housing Board of Trustees |                                    |
| Arts & Culture Commission            | Mayor's Multicultural Council      |
| Board of Assessment Appeals          | Old Town Hall Redevelopment Agency |
| Board of Education                   | OPEB Board of Trustees             |
| Board of Ethics                      | Parks and Recreation Commission    |
| Board of Finance                     | Patriotic & Special Events         |
| Board of Representatives             | Personnel Commission               |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Camera Review Committee                   | Planning Board                         |
| Classified Employees Retirement Fund      | Police Commission                      |
| Custodian Retirement Fund                 | Police Pension Board                   |
| E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Commission         | School Building Committee              |
| Economic Development Commission           | Social Services Commission             |
| Environmental Protection Board            | Stamford Golf Authority                |
| Fire Commission                           | Stamford Investment Advisory Committee |
| Firefighters' Pension Fund                | Stamford School Readiness Council      |
| Harbor Management Commission              | Stamford Transit District              |
| Health Commission (DHSS)                  | Tax Abatement Committee                |
| Historic Preservation Advisory Commission | Tax Assessment Board of Appeals        |
| Investment Advisory Committee             | Traffic Advisory Committee             |
| Urban Redevelopment Commission            | Traffic Hearing Officer                |
| Water Pollution Control Authority         | Zoning Board                           |
|   | Zoning Board of Appeals                |

## Part IV - Authorities & Outside Agencies

### *Entities that Receive City Funding*

The City of Stamford supports several outside agencies that provide vital services to residents. Selected organizations are listed below.

| Account Description              | FY 22/23<br>Actual | FY 23/24          |                   | Department<br>Request | FY 24/25            |                     |                   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                                  |                    | Adopted<br>Budget | Revised<br>Budget |                       | Mayor's<br>Proposed | Board of<br>Finance | Adopted<br>Budget |
| Police Athletic League           | 0                  | 0                 | 0                 | 0                     | 50,000              | 0                   | 0                 |
| Silversource, Inc                | 0                  | 0                 | 0                 | 200,000               | 30,000              | 0                   | 0                 |
| Stamford Museum & Nature Ctr     | 1,325,000          | 1,325,000         | 1,325,000         | 1,395,000             | 1,364,750           | 1,364,750           | 1,364,750         |
| Ferguson Library                 | 9,280,800          | 9,280,800         | 9,280,800         | 9,816,724             | 9,780,000           | 9,780,000           | 9,780,000         |
| Stamford Historical Society      | 47,500             | 47,500            | 47,500            | 50,000                | 48,925              | 48,925              | 48,925            |
| Bartlett Arboretum               | 334,000            | 334,000           | 334,000           | 334,000               | 314,000             | 314,000             | 314,000           |
| DSSD                             | 140,000            | 140,000           | 140,000           | 190,000               | 144,200             | 144,200             | 144,200           |
| Multicultural Council            | 7,242              | 9,500             | 9,500             | 20,000                | 20,000              | 10,000              | 10,000            |
| Old Town Hall Redevelop Agcy     | 0                  | 0                 | 0                 | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                 |
| United Way                       | 15,000             | 15,000            | 15,000            | 15,000                | 15,000              | 15,000              | 15,000            |
| Boys & Girls Club-Yerwood Center | 225,050            | 225,050           | 225,050           | 238,553               | 231,802             | 231,802             | 231,802           |
| Stamford Partnership             | 40,000             | 40,000            | 40,000            | 50,000                | 41,200              | 41,200              | 41,200            |
| Stamford Arts & Culture Grant    | 191,500            | 191,500           | 191,500           | 200,000               | 197,245             | 197,245             | 197,245           |
| Stamford Symphony                | 25,500             | 25,000            | 25,000            | 25,500                | 25,500              | 25,500              | 25,500            |
| Mill River Collaborative         | 500,000            | 500,000           | 500,000           | 500,000               | 500,000             | 500,000             | 500,000           |
| Stamford Center for the Arts     | 47,500             | 47,500            | 47,500            | 50,000                | 48,925              | 48,925              | 48,925            |
| Community Youth Music Prog       | 0                  | 0                 | 0                 | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                 |
| Neighborhood Community Grants    | 75,000             | 75,000            | 75,000            | 150,000               | 77,250              | 77,250              | 77,250            |
| Access 4 All (A4A)               | 912                | 10,500            | 10,500            | 5,000                 | 10,815              | 10,815              | 10,815            |
| Curtain Call                     | 85,000             | 85,000            | 85,000            | 90,000                | 90,000              | 90,000              | 90,000            |
| Sound Waters                     | 85,000             | 85,000            | 85,000            | 100,000               | 87,550              | 87,550              | 87,550            |
| Mary C Rich Clubhouse Teen Cent  | 144,450            | 144,450           | 144,450           | 153,117               | 148,784             | 148,784             | 148,784           |
| Childhood Learning Center        | 98,500             | 98,500            | 98,500            | 105,000               | 101,455             | 101,455             | 101,455           |
| Stamford Youth Peace Foundation  | 25,000             | 25,000            | 25,000            | 25,000                | 25,000              | 25,000              | 25,000            |
| Liberation Programs              | 104,500            | 104,500           | 104,500           | 125,000               | 125,000             | 110,000             | 110,000           |
| Senior Center                    | 279,500            | 279,500           | 279,500           | 320,000               | 287,885             | 287,885             | 287,885           |
| Pacific House                    | 65,000             | 65,000            | 65,000            | 65,000                | 65,000              | 65,000              | 65,000            |
| Inspirica                        | 290,000            | 290,000           | 290,000           | 319,000               | 319,000             | 299,000             | 299,000           |
| Charter Oak Communities          | 323,823            | 373,823           | 373,823           | 447,619               | 447,619             | 447,619             | 447,619           |
| DOMUS Project New Hope           | 36,500             | 0                 | 0                 | 0                     | 0                   | 0                   | 0                 |
| Community Night Program          | 119,840            | 119,840           | 119,840           | 127,030               | 123,435             | 123,435             | 123,435           |
| New Covenant Center              | 85,000             | 85,000            | 85,000            | 110,000               | 110,000             | 90,000              | 90,000            |
| Community Pool Summer Progra     | 60,000             | 60,000            | 60,000            | 60,000                | 60,000              | 60,000              | 60,000            |

## *Attachments*

*#1 – Office of Public Safety, Health & Welfare*

*#2 – Office of Operations*

*#3 – 2024 Board of Ethics Annual Report*

*#4 – Stamford Public Schools Annual Report*