



ESTABLISHED 1659

CITY OF NORWICH

CONNECTICUT

JOHN SALOMONE
CITY MANAGER
(860) 823-3750

100 Broadway
Norwich, CT 06360
Fax (860) 885-2131

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: September 7, 2021

On Monday, August 23rd, 2021, I issued an indoor mask mandate for the City of Norwich. I would have preferred a uniform a statewide/regional approach per the request from the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments to the Governor. New London and Groton issued mandates and since Norwich still has a high infection rate with the numbers climbing, I issued a "Declaration of Emergency for the City of Norwich" which grants municipalities the ability to require mask or face coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status. The order is posted on the home page of the City website at www.norwichct.org.

Meetings attended included, State representatives and legislators, Southeastern Council of Governments (SCCOG), Region 4 Emergency support Plan, NCDC Board meeting, Harbor Management, NPU-City Coordination meeting, Fire Chiefs and several meetings on Storm Henri and remnants of hurricane Ida. I met with Governor Lamont at the State Armory in the Business Park as he toured the state for storm damage. I attended the Vietnam Veterans Ceremony where Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz recognized our local veterans. I also held two informational sessions on August 17th and August 30th for public input on the American Rescue Plan.

The Emergency Operations center was opened for Storm Henri and Storm Ida. Storm Henri impact was less than forecasted. At the Peak of the storm approximately 3,000 NPU customer were without power and there were no known injuries or significant damage to report. Unfortunately, Norwich got more damage with the remnants of Ida. Norwich had a total of 7.5" of rain in less than a 9-hour period and caused major flooding and pooling around the City. Over the course of the storm, the fire service responded to more than 70 calls. There were no injuries reported and damage assessments are ongoing.

Comptroller Josh Pothier and I did a phone interview with a reporter from the Wall Street Journal on the City's proposed pension obligation bonds that will go to referendum in November. The article published September 4th, which explains the analysis, by our pension consultant Milliman, forecasts a savings of \$43 million in today's dollars over the next 30 years.

The agreement with Northeastern CT Council of Governments to manage the City's Animal Control Services became effective September 1st. This regional initiative will save city resources and future costs to the taxpayer.

My office has received notification from the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services of the 2021 Approved Neighborhood Assistance Act Programs. My assistant, Jacque Barbarossa, has notified Norwich applicants via email. Businesses requesting a tax credit under the Neighborhood Assistance Act must complete form NAA-02 on the DRS website by October 1st, 2021. A list of all approved programs is available on the DRS website.