



ESTABLISHED 1659

CITY OF NORWICH

CONNECTICUT

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To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: August 17 2020

Meetings via conference call or video included Governor Lamont updates, State representatives and legislators, Region 4 Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, City Departments, Storm Isaias Planning, Public Safety and interviews with the 4 finalists for the Fire Service Analysis.

Storm Isaias caused severe damage throughout our state and the City is completing a Damage Assessment through the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) who is undertaking the initial damage assessment survey in all eight counties. Municipal/Tribal, Residential and business damages are included in the survey to see if thresholds for any of the federal programs are met which are: FEMA Public Assistance, FEMA Individual Assistance and Small Business Administration (business and homeowner).

During the peak of the storm there were 6,500 NPU customers who lost power. Norwich Public Utilities provided updates as to the areas where their crews were working and within 48 hours of the storm there were less than 500 NPU customers without power. Thank you to the NPU crews, Police, Fire and Public Works who assisted with the storm issues.

The July 2020 Lock Box Tax Collections decreased by \$44,000.00 or .006% from \$7.144 million in 2019 to \$7.100 million in 2020 but increased in number significantly by 1,218 or 28.1% from 4,334 in 2019 to 5,552 in 2020. More importantly during limited City Hall hours, People's Bank Branch collections increased significantly in both dollars and in number by \$825.8 thousand or 46.5% from \$1.777 million in 2019 to \$2.603 million in 2020 and by 603 transactions or 39.7% from 1,517 in 2019 to 2,120 in 2020.

Norwich Human Services is processing over 400 applications for rent and utility assistance thru the Cares Act. Demand has been so high that they have suspended taking application until September 1st. Thank you to the Unitarian Universalist Church for their generous donation of \$15,000 to Norwich Human Services to assist needy families.

Congratulations to Cheryl Hancin and her staff at the Recreation Department for running a successful summer camp program for about 80 youth. Norwich was one of the few communities to run such a program which required intense planning and implementation of numerous safety protocols with no COVID cases being reported during the 6 week program.

The City Clerk's Office processed over 2,700 absentee ballots in the past few week in which 1,921 were actual votes. Thank you to City Clerk, Betsy Barrett, Assistant City Clerk, Roseanne Muscarella, and office staff for their dedication and additional hours during this period to get the job done along with the many volunteers who assisted with the process.