



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 21, 2020

Meetings attended via conference call or video were Governor Lamont updates, State representatives and legislators, Region 4 Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Southeastern Council of Governments, (SCCOG), South East Area Transit (SEAT), NPU-City Coordination Meeting, Public Parking Commission and Volunteer Fire Fighter Relief Fund Committee.

On September 11, 2020 the City received word that they would receive an additional allocation of \$544,243 CDBG-CV funds through the CARES ACT. Previously the City received an allocation of \$506,569. These funds will be used to assist low income Norwich residents, businesses and service providers to help them through the financial devastation of the pandemic. The Community Development Office will be preparing an additional RFP, to allocate this round of funds, in the coming week.

On September 16th, 50 City employees, across most departments, participated in a workshop titled "How to Talk About Race in the Workplace". The presenter Kwane Christian is the Director of the American Negotiation Institute. These conversations are challenging because they are deeply emotional and trigger strongly held beliefs about identity and fairness. The risks of failing to have these conversations in a respectful way can have profound consequences throughout the workplace, leading to issues with morale, group cohesion, and employee retention.

Norwich Youth and Family Services annual Family Day event was a virtual success over the past weekend. Community agencies partnered with NYFS to provide 190 care packages to Norwich kids and families. Local agencies donated fun promotional items and filled the bags with many items including arts & crafts supplies, masks, and books. NYFS partnered with St. Vincent de Paul Place and Voc's Westside Pizza to include coupons for a free pizza slice for each child in the family, as well as chips and cookies. The bags also included flyers and brochures for local programs, events and parenting programs. Additionally, families had the opportunity to view about 30 videos, submitted by community programs and agencies, on the Norwich Youth & Family Services Facebook page and had approximately 2,500 views to date. Many of the videos, included demonstrations of family friendly activities that can be done at home.

The McGrath Consulting Group, Inc., the selected consulting firm to perform the analysis of the City's fire services, will be meeting with the Fire Chiefs and city staff on October 5th & 6th. This is the first step in the process regarding the resolution that was approved at the August 17th Council meeting.

Thank you to the American Legion Post 104 for the \$5,000 grant to the City's Public Works Department to replace and repair the roofs of the 2 buildings at the Taftville Veterans Memorial Park. Public Works Director Pat McLaughlin will be coordinating the project with the group.

The City of Norwich and its employees have been selected as the "City Partner of the Year 2019-20" by the United Way. Thank you to those that contributed and/or donated their time on behalf of the United Way.