



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: November 2, 2020

Meetings attended via conference call or video were Governor Lamont updates, State representatives and legislators, Southeastern Council of Governments, (SCCOG), South East Area Transit (SEAT) Connecticut Conference of Municipalities NPU-City Coordination Meeting, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), NCDC Board meeting, Restaurant Reopening Committee, COVID-19 updates and City Departments.

Due to the COVID-19 upsurge in Norwich and the surrounding towns, several pop up testing locations have been held in and around the area. A link to Uncas Health District and SECCOG for testing locations is located on the City's home page under news. Flyers received for pop-up testing are also posted on the City's Facebook page. A pop-up site was held at the Rose City Senior Center on Thursday, October 29th with 62 tests administered.

McGrath Consulting Group, Inc., the consulting firm to perform the analysis of the City's fire services, met with Public Safety members, Council members, Fire Chiefs and several staff members. The initial process went very well and an additional visit is under consideration.

Norwich Human Services has completed 1000 Renters Rebate application for elderly and disabled people, during this pandemic, which will bring in over \$514,000 to the Norwich economy. They were also awarded \$10,000 for scholarships at the Recreation Department to pay for childcare need for the PREP program.

Public Works Director, Pat McLaughlin attended a virtual Complete Streets Information exchange, sponsored by the CT DOT and the CT Technology Transfer Center highlighting the sustainability, and safety of Complete Streets. Mr. McLaughlin was part of a roundtable presentation on "Street Sharing Successes – Lessons Learned from COVID". His presentation focused on the process we used here in Norwich to help our restaurants survive in these times by providing outdoor dining within the street right-of ways, and in some cases on their own private properties. The Public Works Department has completed the roofs at the Taftville Veterans Memorial Park. The American Legion Post 104 provided a \$5,000 grant to the City's Public Works Department for the project in time for the annual Veterans Day Memorial Service.

Thank you to the United Way, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and Foxwoods, UCSF, St Vincent de Paul's, Norwich Human Services, and volunteers for the Food Box Distribution. Norwich distributed 3,708 food boxes to residents during the month of October.

Thank you to the City Clerk's office and volunteers for processing the thousands of absentee ballots for the upcoming election. The 6 precincts along with the voting locations are on the City's website and Facebook and will be open from 6 am to 8 pm on November 3rd. Please be sure to vote and practice social distancing guidelines at all times.