



ESTABLISHED 1659

CITY OF NORWICH

CONNECTICUT

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To: Mayor and members of the City Council

From: John Salomone, City Manager

Subject: City Manager's Report

Date: March 7, 2016

Throughout the last two weeks of February I continued to acclimate myself with the City and various individuals, committees, and community entities. Also during this time I conducted more than a dozen budget review meetings with various staff and departments.

I met with Senator Cathy Osten and Mayor Hinchey to discuss new legislation and the impact of other state initiatives affecting the City. Senator Osten was very helpful in providing details.

I attended meetings at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce, Norwich Community Development Corporation, Norwich Public Utilities and the Harbor Management Commission. I also met with representatives from the Norwich Historical Society.

I met with John Bilda and staff to discuss the state of the VOIP conversion taking place at city hall. A plan of action to expedite the progress of this project was developed and implemented. Staff from NPU and the City will collaborate on key aspects of the implementation.

I attended a presentation of a \$10,000 grant awarded to ARC of New London County by Comcast. These funds will be used to purchase computers as part of a digital literacy program at ARC for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Also of note, I attended an event held at Otis Library to announce the library's status as a finalist for the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community and our community should be proud that Otis Library has qualified as a finalist for this distinctive award. Winners will be announced later this spring. I also attended a picnic at the Rose City Senior Center, which provided me an opportunity to meet many of the citizens that regularly visit the Center.

I began meeting individually with members of the Council, a process I look forward to continuing on a routine basis.

Preparations are underway for collective bargaining negotiations with four of the City's unions.

On March 2, 2016, the City of Norwich kicked off a New Media initiative in an effort to promote good will and a positive image of the city to its residents and visitors. The City, along with NPU and NCDC will be working together on improving social media and messaging efforts city-wide. Miranda Creative is working in a consulting role to assist with the implementation.

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