



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 4, 2019

I attended the monthly Norwich Community Development Corporation (NCDC) meeting and Comptroller, Josh Pothier and I met with Superintendent, Dr. Stringfellow and staff to discuss a schedule of meetings for issues that may occur for the upcoming budget year.

Norwich Recreation Department held their 2nd annual "Trunk or Treat" event at Brown Park on Friday, October 25th. Hundreds of families attended this fun, safe, family event with 20 Halloween decorated trunks including Public Works, Recreation, Human Services, Fire & Police Departments and the Community Development Office. The event included a DJ and balloon artist for the crowd of approximately 1,200. Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers and the Recreation Department for making this event a great success.

The City has been notified that it has achieved a Bronze certification as a Sustainable CT community and will be recognized at the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities at the Annual convention on December 3rd. This certification is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating cost and provide grants and additional support to municipalities.

The Youth and Family Service division of Norwich Human Services was awarded the Drug Free Communities grant on October 30th. This is a five year grant which will help our community through the United States Department of Health and Human Services through its Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) in the amount of \$125,000 per year for a term of five years. This grant will assist Norwich Human Services and the Local Prevention Council in strengthening collaborations among communities, public and private nonprofit agencies, as well as federal, state, local, and tribal governments, to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth and adults.

City employees did a stellar job in supporting the United Way Campaign this year. We increased the number of people contributing by 69% which will help the many agencies that help Norwich families including the Gemma Moran food Center and United Community & Family Services Health Center.

City employees will receive their first bi-weekly pay deposit on November 14th. Thank you to Stacie Ballaro, Accounting Generalist and a special thank you to Pat Osten, Assistant Human Resources Director, for her expertise to get this up and running.

My assistant, Jacquie Barbarossa has informed me that the *Cat's Meow* Christmas ornaments have arrived and are available in the City Clerk's office for \$10. Proceeds benefit the "Light Up City Hall" event. I have also been advised that the Hallmark movie "Holiday for Heroes" has a scheduled a release date of Friday, November 8th so be sure to set your DVR player if you want to catch a glimpse of Norwich City Hall and other local towns. Several days of round the clock filming took place at City Hall, in the City Manager's Office and outside in the plaza where a winter setting was created for the holiday festivities in the film.