



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: October 2, 2023

Meetings attended were Southeastern Council of Governments Executive Committee Meeting (SCCOG), NDC Board of Directors meeting, and NPU-City Coordination Meeting. I also attended the Eastern CT Corridor Rail and Transit Feasibility Study (ECRTS) Public Information Meeting that was held on September 20, 2023 at Otis Library. The study is regarding the feasibility of expanding Shore Line East commuter rail from New London to Westerly, and New London to Norwich along the west bank of the Thames River. The study also looked at transit improvements to enhance connectivity for current and future residents. The findings of the study are preliminary. Project development would require additional study, planning, permitting, design, and most importantly, funding. The transit improvement options are much more reasonable from a funding perspective, \$9-10M, with annual operating costs between \$3-4M. Rail implementation on the Norwich line is estimated at over \$600M, with \$33M in operating costs.

The second Land Use Training was held on September 28th, through the Center of Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) and SCCOG for the City's land use officials. The State of Connecticut Public Act 21-29 requires 4 hours of training for all land use officials, members, and commissions by January 1, 2024 and every other year thereafter.

The Human Services Divisions Block Party was a big success. Over 300 people attended the Rose City Block Party, a safe, substance-free space for kids and for their families to find local resources. Enrollment in Youth, Family, and Recreation programs has tripled since last year and the number of class offerings has doubled. The Adult & Family Division is assisting, on average, over 75 Norwich families each month. The Rose City Senior Center has been awarded a grant from the State of Connecticut and is excited to announce their upcoming outdoor patio renovation, to be completed by next fall.

The 33rd annual "Walktober" has begun. The City of Norwich participates with the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor on this annual event. Norwich has over 41 walks and events scheduled including numerous heritage sites and points of interest throughout the City. The second annual "NorWitch Strut" will be held on Saturday, October 28th from 5 pm to 8 pm. Thank you to the volunteers and sponsors that make these events possible. The full Walktober Guide is available on line at www.thelastgreenvalley.org.