



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: March 3, 2025

Meetings and Budget Preparations

In recent weeks, I attended several key meetings, including the NCDC Executive Board of Directors meeting, the NPU-City Coordination meeting, and the Connecticut Investment Fund (CIF) Stakeholders meeting. Additionally, Comptroller Josh Pothier and I met with department heads, fire chiefs, registrars, Norwich Public Schools representatives, Otis, and NCDC to discuss upcoming budgets. Budget hearings are scheduled for the second and third weeks of April, with the first public hearing set for April 16th.

2024 Grand List Update

On February 25th, the Assessor's Office filed the 2024 grand list. The data shows:

- **Real estate** increased by \$1,030,000
- **Personal property** increased by \$19,495,000
- **Motor vehicles** decreased by \$32,162,000

This results in a **net decrease of 0.4%** compared to the previous year.

Waterfront Development Project

I participated in interviews for Waterfront Design and Engineering Services. The City of Norwich, in collaboration with the Norwich Community Development Corporation, sought proposals for the design and engineering of improvements to Brown Park and the Marina area. Funding for this project was secured through two rounds of the Connecticut DECD Community Investment Fund 2030 grants, totaling **\$5,920,000**.

SLR International Corporation, based in Cheshire, CT, was awarded the design contract. The project aims to promote economic development and enhance public access to the Norwich waterfront.

Podcast Participation

I was featured in a podcast interview, "**Connecticut East This Week – Connecticut's Broken Tax System,**" alongside Joseph DeLong, Executive Director and CEO of CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities), and Michael Passero, Mayor of New London. The episode schedule is available at [Connecticut East](#).

Public Works Activities

Public Works has managed **13 winter weather events** this season. While most were minor, two major events on February 9th and 13th resulted in over **5 inches of snowfall** across the city. The department utilized all available personnel but did not require external assistance. To date, **1,200 tons of salt** have been used.

Additionally, Public Works conducted test pit excavations at **Uncas Elementary School** and **Moriarty School**. These excavations were carried out on separate days, as time permitted between weather events, utilizing city labor and equipment to expedite the school design process.

Lead Hazard Reduction Program

Following successful negotiations with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in January, the **Lead Hazard Reduction Program** began accepting applications on **February 1st**. The final requirement—completion of the Environmental Review—is expected to be approved next week. Once finalized, the program will allocate funds to eligible projects.

Community Events

A special thank you to the **Norwich Events Organization** and its volunteers for successfully organizing the **11th annual St. Patrick's Parade** downtown on **March 2nd**. Their dedication and efforts continue to bring the community together and enhance the city's cultural celebrations.