



ESTABLISHED 1659

## CITY OF NORWICH CONNECTICUT

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**To:** Mayor Singh and members of the City Council  
**From:** John Salomone, City Manager  
**Subject:** City Manager's Report  
**Date:** February 17, 2026

### Meetings and Professional Engagements

During the reporting period, I represented the City at several regional, intergovernmental, and internal meetings, including:

- Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SECOG)
- City Coordination Meeting
- Norwich Community Development Corporation (NCDC) Executive Committee
- Stakeholder discussions related to the Community Investment Fund (CIF)
- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) regarding a federal transportation grant
- Waterfront Design Committee

In addition, I held a press conference and participated in multiple media interviews concerning a temporary adjustment to fire service operations within the Yantic service area. This matter was previously reviewed with City Council in executive session on Monday the 9th.

The adjustment was implemented exclusively to protect public safety and ensure reliable emergency response services for residents and visitors. Prior to implementation, extensive contingency planning was completed to guarantee uninterrupted emergency coverage.

Emergency response responsibilities for the affected area have been reassigned through the Norwich Fire Department Unified Command Structure under the direction of Fire Chief Sam Wilson. This revised deployment model maintains service continuity while enhancing overall coverage through increased staffing levels, improved apparatus availability, and strengthened coordination.

This operational change is intended to be temporary. The City remains optimistic that continued dialogue and collaboration will result in a resolution that strengthens and stabilizes emergency service delivery. Throughout this transition, the City continues to work with regional partners to ensure response benchmarks, turnout times, and operational readiness are fully maintained.

## Public Works

As of Wednesday, February 11, 2026, Norwich Public Works has responded to nine winter weather events this season, four of which were significant storms.

The most recent storm, occurring over the weekend of February 7, deposited approximately six inches of snow citywide, bringing total seasonal snowfall to 43 inches. Notably, 42 of those 43 inches occurred during weekends or holidays, significantly impacting overtime requirements.

Approximately 260 tons of salt were utilized for this event and subsequent cleanup operations, increasing total seasonal salt usage to approximately 1,600 tons. The estimated cost of responding to the nine winter storms to date is approximately \$263,000. These costs exceed budget projections primarily due to overtime expenses associated with off-hours storm timing.

## Bulky Waste Pickups

February bulky waste pickups are currently underway. A total of 125 pickups were scheduled for this cycle, which began on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and will continue until completion.

## Youth, Family, and Recreation Department

With the support of a grant from the **Chelsea Groton Foundation**, the Youth, Family, and Recreation Department distributed 100 “Brrr Bags” throughout the community via Kindness Pantries across Norwich. These cold-weather care packages included hats, gloves, socks, scarves, lip balm, moisturizer, and hand lotion.

Additionally, the department introduced a weekly open-gym basketball program for children and teens this winter. While the children’s program has been well attended since inception, participation in the teen program has grown significantly—from three participants initially to more than 25 teens within four weeks.

## Events

The **NAACP Annual Sweet Potato Festival** will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.