



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 19, 2018

The City was notified of the Opportunity Zone Program which is a new community development program to induce long-term investments in low-income communities. The program provides federal tax incentives for investors to re-invest unrealized capital gains into Opportunity Zones through Opportunity Funds. Each governor may designate up to 25% of the qualified census tracts in the state as Opportunity Zones of which Norwich has six out of the nine census tracts identified by the governor. NCDC worked in conjunction with the Mayor, the Community Development Office, Planning & Development Office and Norwich Public Utilities to compile the information needed for the application. My office sent the application via email on the due date of March 16th. This could create a significant opportunity for long-term investment in the City, its waterfront and the downtown. Thank you to those that helped compile and complete the information that was needed for the application.

The Mayor and I had a conference call with Betsy Crum from the Women's Institute on March 7th after they were notified that they had not been approved for the Downtown Development Bond through NCDC.

Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SECCOG) in conjunction with the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance released the 2018 Housing Needs Assessment for the southeastern Connecticut region at a session that was held at Otis Library on March 15th. Some of the key points included:

- The number of households in the region is expected to increase by 7,200 (2015-2030)
- There is a potential shift in housing preferences of younger households looking for communities with more urban characteristics.
- Hiring by General Dynamic Electric Boat will further exacerbate housing shortage.

The complete report is available at www.seccog.org.

Active Shooter Training for City Office personnel was held on March 15th. Sixty-four people attended one of the 2 sessions that were presented by Deputy Chief Chris Ferace and Sgt. Tom Lazzaro. Thank you to both of them for an informative presentation. The handout "Avoid Deny Defend" was sent to all city employees after the session.

The City Manager's Office will be accepting Neighborhood Assistance Applications until June 1st, 2018. A press release was sent to the newspapers and it has been posted on the City's website.

I've attached the Key Financial Indicators report for the eight months ended February 28th from Comptroller Josh Pothier which coincides with the major tax collection and storm seasons.