

# City of Norwich Special Meeting

## March 3, 2018

### Top Short and Long Term Priorities

The goal of the special meeting of city leaders on March 3, 2018 was to establish top short-term and long-term priorities, drawing from both the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and the SWOT Analysis conducted at the special meeting on January 20, 2018.

The three core areas, or buckets, identified for these priorities are:

- **Economic Development & Infrastructure**
- **Public Safety & Quality of Life**
- **The Education System**

Both short-term and long-term priorities were established in each of these areas, as outlined below.

### **Economic Development & Infrastructure**

#### Short-Term Priorities:

- Focus economic development efforts on downtown, the waterfront, and the “Golden Triangle” (i.e., leveraging the synergy between 1) the Mohegan Tribe, 2) the Preston development and walkway, and 3) the Norwich downtown, waterfront, and historical assets). This priority aligns with the POCD (*see POCD Implementation Tables page 1 item #B3, page 3 items #1, 7, and 8, page 9, items #1, 3, 10 and 11, page 17 item #1, page 18 item #2, page 19 item #6 and 7, page 26 items #1-5*).

The focus on economic development short-term includes the following initiatives:

- Completing the Uncas Leap project and working to reinstate the Sachem Fund.
  - Work with the state to reconfigure traffic patterns downtown, particularly focused on Chelsea Harbor Drive, in order to support development downtown and on the waterfront.
  - Reexamine parking and location of parking garages, as well as signage for such, in downtown (NCDC and Historical Society currently working on elements of this).
  - Reexamine zoning regulations in downtown to ensure that they will work to support appropriate development of the waterfront and downtown.
  - Work with the Mohegan Tribe on cleanup of the waterfront, including Shetucket Ironworks.
- Focus on the economic development needs of the villages and neighborhoods of Norwich (*see POCD Implementation Tables page 1, items A1 and B1*). This is a priority for Bob Mills/NCDC and City Planner Deanna Rhodes, who are currently working on this.

#### Long-Term Priorities:

- Build collaborative relationship with the Mohegan Tribe for long-term development of Norwich waterfront and historical assets. (*Development of the waterfront and the historical assets of Norwich is addressed throughout the previously referenced sections of the POCD*)

- Address flooding issues/mitigation in downtown in order to support long-term development. FEMA currently studying flooding mitigation in downtown. (See *POCD Implementation Tables page 24 items #1, 2, and 7*)
- Update railroad lines (Tiger grant) to enhance transportation assets in support of long-term economic development. (See *POCD Implementation Tables page 21 item #5*)
- Consider charter revision to stagger city council terms in order to support greater continuity of planning and follow through on plans for the city.

## **Public Safety & Quality of Life**

### Short-Term Priorities:

- Make decisions on the appropriation of the \$3.2 million bond for the city to purchase new equipment/trucks to ensure best use of these funds to support public safety and promote quality of life in the city. (See *POCD Implementation Tables page 7 item #1*)
- Make decision with regard to the future of Dodd Stadium. (See *Implementation Tables page 2 item #7*)

### Long-Term Priorities:

- Consolidation of systems, including computer and communications systems, in order to support public safety and quality of life while working to achieve long-term cost savings.
- Relocation of police department.
- Continue to evaluate zoning regulations to ensure appropriate balance between development and quality of life.

## **The Education System**

### Short-Term Priorities:

- Funding the school system short-term. System faces current population trend and funding pressures. Tough decisions will have to be made. (See *POCD Implementation Tables page 15 item #1*)

### Long-Term Priorities:

- Realignment and evolution of the school system over next 10-20 years. Current system not sustainable given current population trends and funding constraints. City needs to consolidate and/or realign the system, and determine how NFA fits into the overall long-term vision for the city's education system given funding constraints. (See *POCD Implementation Tables page 15 item #1*)