

Bonnie Cuprak

From: Mark Kalinowski <marktkalinowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: Norwich School Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

No one wants more than to give our town's kids the best of everything. I say this sincerely. Mine were well educated and are quite successful based on their Norwich Public Education and NFA foundation and are both now "essential" employees right here with my daughter as a CCU nurse at Backus on the Covid front lines and my son a mechanic at Holmgren Subaru keeping other essentials running. With that being said, I also have a 58 year broad overview of the city where I was born, raised, served first as a police officer for over 20 years and now as a funeral director in town for 17 years.

By and large, Norwich has a higher mill rate than our neighbors. (List your justifications here)

The country, of which Norwich is a part of, has standard inflationary rates. The United States inflationary rate year over year with data ending March 2020 has a 1.5% inflationary rate. SOURCE:

<https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>

Our mill rate is currently 40.28% with the poor folks lucky enough to be in the CCD even higher. SOURCE: norwichct.org

Raises, if we get any this year, will be around the inflationary rate (hopefully).

NBCCT recently did a story showing the exodus from Connecticut based on taxation and cost of living. SOURCE:

<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/national-international/retirees-are-fleeing-these-3-states-in-droves/127464/>

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Regardless of "justifications" the Board of Ed, City Council, or the golden untouchable child that is NFA, anything higher than an inflationary rate increase of that 1.5% sets us backward. This is just simple fact. The squeezing of taxpayer's wallets can't be expanded but rather, should be decreased yet, for my first statement about wanting the best we can afford... ***like we do with household budgets...*** is 1.5% leaving us flat and still unhappy with the amount of taxes we pay in Norwich.

NFA saw this day coming and they are poised to become private and give a giant "FU" to the city that made it what it is today and they know it and have a strangle hold on us. NFA will never suffer regardless so their willingness to negotiate is negligible and only window dressing. They're "public" when it benefits them, and "private" when it benefits them and nowhere to be found when it benefits us, Norwich, and the sending towns.

You are in a difficult place and I don't envy you and I do appreciate the fact that you all bang your heads against the wall trying to fix the gift that was given you from previous boards, councils etc., but enough is truly enough. We can't afford to be squeezed any longer. I love Norwich as many of my peers do who have already left the area, if not the state completely. I don't want to become one of those merely for the cause of survival.

Thank you all for listening.

Mark T. Kalinowski
5 Dupont Ln

Norwich, CT 06360

Mark T. Kalinowski

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi

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Bonnie Cuprak

Exhibit # B

From: Al Remondi <alremondi@snet.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: May 11th Budget Hearing - Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Alan Remondi, 321 Palmer Street Ext, Norwich

I support the proposed budget that the City Manager presented to the City Council. I do not support increasing the school budget any higher than the City Manager recommended. In these difficult times, the City Council should be holding the line on the budget and not increasing taxes more. The City Council should also take action to prevent the School Board from overspending the budget given to them by the Council, otherwise what good is the City Council in approving a budget.

Al Remondi

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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From: Betsy M. Barrett
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Bonnie Cuprak
Subject: RE: 2020-21 budget

Thank you

Betsy M Barrett
City and Town Clerk
100 Broadway Room 215
Norwich CT 06360
860-823-3734

From: Bonnie Cuprak
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Betsy M. Barrett <bbarrett@cityofnorwich.org>
Subject: FW: 2020-21 budget

Sincerely,
Bonnie

Bonnie S. Cuprak
Executive Secretary to the Mayor
City Hall, Room 330
100 Broadway
Norwich, CT 06360
860-823-3742
mayoroffice@cityofnorwich.org

From: MARGARET SCHUMACHER <mschumacher01@snet.net>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Bonnie Cuprak <mayoroffice@cityofnorwich.org>
Subject: 2020-21 budget

Good Day to all,

I thank you for your hard work and dedication to the city of Norwich. I do feel the need to comment on the proposed budget. I know that this is a difficult time for everyone, but we must do the hard work of making sure that our students are provided the best education possible. To that end, I believe that we must fully fund the education budget - especially in this year of unknowns, apprehension and fear. The fact is that the proposed budget the board is asking for may not be enough due to the fact that we have no idea what school in the fall will look like. Will there be more classes to teach due to distancing guidelines? Will there be a need to hire more staff for the same reason? Who knows! The point is that it would not be safe for our students if you slashed the proposed budget immediately forcing the need for larger class sizes as has happened in the past. Now is not the time. Now is the time to fully fund our students.

Margaret Schumacher
Teacher of Music at St, Patrick Cathedral School, Sacred Heart School (Taftville), formerly at I.D.C.S.