


CITY OF NEW BRITAIN



The Honorable
Erin E. Stewart
Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: SEN. THERESA GERRATANA
REP. BETTY BOUKUS
REP. RICK LOPES
REP. BOBBY SANCHEZ
REP. PETER TERCYAK

FR: MAYOR ERIN E. STEWART 

DT: FEBRUARY 7, 2015

RE: LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

I appreciate your continued efforts to secure support at the state level for our City. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather that required the postponement of our meeting, I wanted to provide you with several priority issues from which the City would benefit during this legislative session.

1.) Allen Street Sewer Upgrades and Roadway Reconstruction

This is a request that is continued from last year. Allen Street is one of the City's longest and busiest thoroughfares. This project is critical to resolving chronic issues including flooding due to storm sewer failures, sanitary sewer backups and breaks due to insufficient capacity and the system's age, and the general disrepair of the of the road surface and sidewalks themselves. Cardinal Engineers set the project cost at \$6.79 million. Phase I of the project covers the portion of Allen Street from Farmington Avenue to McClintock Street and will be backed by \$1.6 million from the state that has already been secured. This phase will be going out to bid in the next few weeks. We need an additional \$4.5 million to complete the remainder of the project.

2.) Main Street Overpass Beautification Project

The City is moving ahead with a project to turn the Main Street overpass over Route 72 into a signature landmark for New Britain. The design was selected with input from the public

27 West Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051
Tel: 860.826.3303 Fax: 860.826.3308
www.newbritainct.gov
mayor@newbritainct.gov



and will dovetail nicely with the opening of CTfastrak. In addition to creating a more aesthetically pleasing area of downtown, it will also help to better link it with the Broad Street area. The total cost of the project is \$4.5 million. \$1.6 million of it will come from an existing Bus Livability Grant from the state, and \$1.4 million will be spent in City bonding. An additional \$1.5 million is needed to fully fund this project.

3.) **Field Turf for Chesley Park**

The conditions at Chesley Field have been poor for many years, especially due to the use it gets from the Junior Hurricanes football program. The current conditions border on the unsafe and have caused injuries to players. Despite the fact that the Junior Hurricanes are among the best youth football programs in the nation, their home field has garnered the reputation of being among the worst. Last year, the City made special arrangements for them to play their home games on the field turf at Veterans Stadium, but that is a short term fix and will become increasingly difficult as more events get scheduled at that venue. Placing field turf on Chesley Field not only gives the Junior Hurricanes a quality playing surface, it will also be a boon for all the residents of New Britain's east side neighborhoods who utilize the field for soccer and other activities. The planning for this project was completed in 2014, so the City now needs \$1.6 million to bring it to fruition.

4.) **Add New Britain to the state's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) budget**

In July, the city was notified that our assistance from the federal government under the ESG grant would be cut to "0" in 2015. Following that notification, I requested a meeting with Governor Malloy and Commissioner Klein to seek funding for both the overflow/cold weather shelters and our rapid rehousing program. We were fortunate to receive a portion of the necessary funding to keep our overflow shelter open this winter and partially for next winter as well. The 'Building Hope Together' – New Britain's Permanent Workplan to End Homelessness – committee continues to apply for funding from various donors, however, in any given winter, the overflow shelter (which we are required to provide by state statute) costs upwards of \$60,000. I am requesting that the delegation support the addition of the New Britain Overflow Shelter as a permanent line item in the state's ESG annual allotment.

The list above is far from exhaustive, as there are myriad areas where the state can continue to assist in our City's turnaround. But these items represent among the most pressing and/or actionable projects we have. Additionally, I remain in strong support of proposed H.B.

6726, the passage of which will ensure the City receives proper reimbursement for the ongoing construction at Gaffney School. Further, I realize that many of you have been contacted by individuals associated with Urban Oaks in pursuit of state financial assistance. While I am unfamiliar with the details of their request, I support the farm's mission and will continue to do what I can to help them develop a realistic and workable business plan that will yield success and stability.

Thank you again for all that you do for our City. I look forward to continuing our positive working relationship throughout this session and into the future. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Erin E. Stewart
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MEMORANDUM

TO: SEN. THERESA GERRATANA
REP. BETTY BOUKUS
REP. RICK LOPES
REP. BOBBY SANCHEZ
REP. PETER TERCYAK

FR: MAYOR ERIN E. STEWART

DT: FEBRUARY 2, 2016

RE: CAPITAL PROJECTS/LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

I appreciate your continued efforts to secure support at the state level for our City. The following are several priority issues from which the City would benefit during this 2016 legislative session. They are in no particular order.

1.) Stadium Tax Exemption

This is a request that would bring parity to New Britain Stadium along with the rest of the stadiums around the state. The legislature has in the past exempted certain venues from a ticket tax. The city's stadium has to charge this tax to customers and in order to offer quality, family friendly entertainment; I respectfully request that New Britain Stadium be added to the exemption list.

2.) Beehive Bridge

The City is moving ahead with a project to turn the Main Street overpass over Route 72 into a signature landmark for New Britain. The design was selected with input from the public and will dovetail nicely with the ongoing efforts to support CTfastrak. In addition to creating a more aesthetically pleasing area of downtown, it will also help to better link it with the Broad Street area. The total cost of the project is \$5.1 million. \$1.6 million of it will come from an existing Bus Livability Grant from the state and \$1.4 million will be spent in City bonding. An additional \$2.1 million is needed to fully fund this project.

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www.newbritainct.gov
mayor@newbritainct.gov



3.) Paving the New Britain Stadium Parking Lot

The conditions of the parking lot at New Britain stadium have been poor for many years, especially due to the use it gets from the thousands of visitors we host every year. With the welcome of the inaugural season of the New Britain Bees, the current conditions border on the unsafe and have caused many people to urge repair. The estimated cost is \$800,000.

4.) Relocation of the Police Impound Lot

Currently, the police impound lot is located underneath the Route 71 (Harry Truman) overpass. The city is working with the State Department of Transportation to grant permission to access the space for ongoing construction the state desperately needs to undertake bridge repairs. Bridge safety and traffic flow are the utmost importance in this area. It would help the city and the state if we could receive support to move the impound lot to Christian Lane where it will be in a safer location and not be in the middle of a construction zone and future economic development with the RFP being out currently for the old Police Department site.

5.) Construction of a Storage Facility on Christian Lane

The city currently uses a very old and blighted building at the corner of Slater and Osgood to house public works trucks and other equipment. The building is an eyesore for the area which has seen tremendous amounts of redevelopment from a new CREC School to the expansion of a leading Aerospace Manufacturer and the renaissance of our community housing, in addition to the ongoing presence of high achieving schools like DiLoreto Magnet Elementary School and EC Goodwin Technical School. If we eliminate this building to clean up the corner we would need to erect a storage facility elsewhere in the city for those vehicles and public works materials. I am suggesting our property on Christian Lane as a safe and secure location to partner nicely with the relocation of the impound lot.

6.) Animal Shelter Rebuild

The animal shelter the city utilizes on Christian Lane is in desperate need of repair. The animals are being taken care of but there are issues with the roof and the kennels where they are kept. Many times the Parvo disease that affects the animals is unavoidable because of the conditions of this shelter. Portions of the facility date to the 1970's, the kennel area is of poor design, space is lacking, and plumbing upgrades are needed, as are other renovations. We are requesting funds for a complete rebuild up to state code. A thought we have thrown around as a new location would be in place of the blighted building at the corner of Osgood Avenue and Slater Road. Essentially, we would like to swap the storage facility and the animal facility locations.

7.) Add New Britain to the state's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) budget

The 'Building Hope Together' task force – New Britain's Permanent Workplan to End Homelessness –greatly appreciates the state assistance we have received during the last several years. The group continues to apply for funding from various donors, however, in any given winter, the overflow shelter (which we are required to provide by the state) costs upwards of \$90,000. I am requesting that the delegation support the addition of the New Britain Overflow Shelter as a permanent line item in the state's ESG annual allotment. As you are all aware, New Britain's ESG allotment from the federal government was eliminated last year. We have had to cobble together whatever funding we can find to operate the shelter for the last two winters. Eventually our funding sources will dry up and we will not be able to provide this service to our CAN. On any given night, we have upwards of 45 homeless individuals staying in the New Britain Overflow Shelter located at CMHA on Russell Street. If you would like more information on our plan and successes, please contact me.

8.) Phase 2 of the Sewer Upgrades and Roadway Reconstruction Allen Street

Allen Street is one of the City's longest and busiest thoroughfares. This project was split into two phases and is critical to resolving chronic issues including flooding due to storm sewer failures, sanitary sewer backups and breaks due to insufficient capacity and the system's age, and the general disrepair of the road surface and sidewalks. The latest estimate from Cardinal Engineers sets the total project cost for both phases at \$7.49 million. Phase I of the project covered the portion of Allen Street from Farmington Avenue to Oak Street and was completed in 2015 for a cost of about \$1.9 million. The Phase 1 project was funded by a \$1.6 million ConnDOT LOCIP grant and \$300,000 from the City's Infrastructure Bond. We need an additional \$5.59 million to complete Phase 2 of the project.

The list above is far from exhaustive, as there are a myriad of areas where the state can continue to assist in our City's turnaround. But these items represent among the most pressing and/or actionable projects we have. As always we request you all continue to advocate for equitable funding in our schools, and fair solutions for our lack of PILOT dollars. Additionally, I'd like to inform you that we are also in the process of conducting a feasibility study for the renovation of Smalley Elementary School that should be forthcoming in the spring.

Also of note, the city Police Department is extremely concerned about the administration's suggestion to treat anyone under the age of 21 who commits a crime as a juvenile. Given the nature of crimes committed on a daily basis this intention is considered dangerous. We want to ensure the city is safe and that criminals are behind bars for their crimes.

Thank you again for all that you do for our City. I look forward to continuing our positive working relationship throughout this session and into the future. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin E. Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "S".

Erin E. Stewart
Mayor



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

EST. 1871

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

WWW.NEWBRITAINCT.GOV

MEMORANDUM

TO: SEN. THERESA GERRATANA
REP. WILLIAM PETIT
REP. RICK LOPES
REP. BOBBY SANCHEZ
REP. PETER TERCYAK

FR: MAYOR ERIN E. STEWART

DT: DECEMBER 27, 2016

RE: LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2017 SESSION

In anticipation of a very busy legislative session, I would like to share the city of New Britain's 2017 Legislative Priority list before the New Year. The advocacy of our delegation members is imperative to success. I look forward to your continued efforts to secure support at the state level for our city. These projects are in no particular order.

Renovation of Smalley Elementary School - As you are aware the Board of Education submitted the Grant Application for the School Building Project earlier in the year. Architect, Fletcher Thompson and the Newfield construction company have been selected by the school building committee. We now await the legislature's approval of our project which we were informed was on the Priority list of school construction projects to be funded this year. Please see attached letter from OPM. I would of course also ask that a notwithstanding bill be put in to ensure 100% reimbursement.

PILOT funding - As you know, the city of New Britain relies heavily on payment in lieu of taxes from the state. In recent years we have received only a portion of this money. 48% of all real property in the city is exempt from property tax, creating a large imbalance in our budget. While we get a PILOT grant to help make up the difference, it is only a fraction of what we would receive if the institution were taxed in full. In essence, the city loses out on millions each year from the state

Without the ability to collect any tax from these exempt properties - and a state that is unable to reimburse us fully - we bear a heavy burden to make do with what we have and still provide services to tens of thousands of residents. I am encouraging the delegation to fight to maintain the level of PILOT dollars we receive today, and would further encourage you to advocate for equity in the formula used to calculate reimbursement dollars.

Urban Stabilization Bonds - The state already allows the issuance of bonds and notes by Connecticut municipalities for "new projects" but limits them to a 20-year maturity. The exception being school construction bonds which can have a 30 year maturity. Similarly, bonds issued to "refund" (refinance) outstanding municipal bonds are limited to less than 20 years, and there are limits on the increase in the bond principal amounts unless debt service savings are achieved.

Because there may be a number of factors that lead to significant increases in the city's debt service payments in the next several years, we anticipate significant budgetary pressure, which could mean delays in bonding for completing infrastructure and other municipal projects, to avoid additional debt service payments.

I am working with other cities around the state to advocate for USB's, Urban Stabilization Bonds that would allow all municipalities to issue bonds for "new projects" with a maturity of up to 30 years and to issue refunding bonds with a maturity up to 30 years. This would be a local option and there would be a sunset provision. This item has also been placed on the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) legislative agendas.

Stanley Quarter/AW Stanley Pond Dredging – Families and visitors are not able to fully utilize our parks because of the poor condition of our ponds; from geese droppings to overgrown invasive species the ponds are literally dying. These water ways are beyond remediation and I know proposals to fix them will come in beyond our fiscal capacity. Our city takes great pride in its parks system and I do hope that we can restore these ponds to the once pristine recreational standards. The city is currently receiving proposals from architectural and engineering firms detailing their solutions to the issue, which will most likely include dredging. The state DEEP has said the Lakes Grant Program is no longer available, which is why I am seeking your help. Please see attached letters between the city and DEEP.

Regional Police Shooting Range – The city does not have a shooting range for mandatory training and certification of its police officers. We have been trying to coordinate a regional solution with several towns in the same position mainly, Bristol, Plainville, Southington, Burlington and Wolcott. The cost to send officers out of town to train is extremely high. There are other overtime costs associated as law enforcement has to schedule replacement officers back home. We are currently seeking a location that is suitable and close by so we can be sure our officers are meeting their gun qualification benchmarks on an annual basis. It will most likely cost money to make sure safety and environmental concerns are adhered to in the construction of the range and I am seeking your help in securing a location and funds to make this a reality. We have involved CRCOG.

I have chosen not to include project updates in this memo and will send you a subsequent memo highlighting those.

As always we request you all continue to advocate for equitable funding in our schools.

As just a reminder in previous memos we have discussed a few issues that are still pending; rebuild of our dog pound, paving the New Britain Stadium parking lot, construction of a storage facility on Christian Lane, Phase 2 of the sewer upgrades and roadway reconstruction of Allen Street. The sewer upgrades on Allen Street are the most pressing but I understand the financial constraints the state is facing.

It is important to note, that I also have concerns regarding the consent decree requirements related to Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance Program (CMOM) for the Sanitary Sewer System and additional regulations from the federal government regarding Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). Both of these issues are extremely costly. As it stands now compliance of CMOM will require the city to do about \$20 million in investments to the Sewer System beginning next year. And there are an

estimated \$1 million in costs for additional work related to MS4 compliance. I will also be sending a separate memo with more specifics addressing these projects after the first of the year.

Thank you again for all that you do for our City. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, I would be happy to meet to discuss these issues further. I look forward to continuing our positive working relationship throughout this session and into the future.



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

EST. 1871

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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MEMORANDUM

TO: SEN. THERESA GERRATANA
REP. WILLIAM PETTIT
REP. RICK LOPES
REP. BOBBY SANCHEZ
REP. PETER TERCYAK

FR: MAYOR ERIN E. STEWART

DT: January 23, 2018

RE: LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2018 SESSION

As in years past, I would like to share the city of New Britain's 2018 Legislative Priority list. The advocacy of our delegation members is imperative to success. I look forward to your continued efforts to secure support at the state level for our City. These projects are in no particular order.

Smalley Elementary School – The state as you are aware approved \$42,023,700 of the \$53,000,000 project thank you for the support. Phase 1 Plans, Specifications and Professional Cost Estimates for the Demolition and Hazardous Materials Removal were presented and approved by the School Building Committee. This phase of the project will go out to bid in February. All plans are approved by the State. In total there will be 5 phases; Phase 1 – Demolition and Hazardous Materials Removal, Phase 2 – Site, Concrete and Steel, Phase 3 – Bidding, Phase 4 – FF&E (Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment) and Technology and Phase 5 – Playgrounds. Smalley Elementary School is still on schedule to be occupied by mid-August 2019.

PILOT/MRSA funding – As you know, the city of New Britain relies heavily on payment in lieu of taxes from the state. In recent years we have received only a portion of this money. 48% of all real property in the city is exempt from property tax, creating a large imbalance in our budget.

Without the ability to collect any tax from these exempt properties – and a state that is unable to reimburse us fully - we bear a heavy burden to make do with what we have and still provide services to tens of thousands of residents. I am encouraging the delegation to fight to maintain the level of PILOT/MRSA dollars we receive today, and would further encourage you to advocate for equity in the formula used to calculate reimbursement dollars.

While we get a PILOT/MRSA grant to help make up the difference, it is only a fraction of what we would receive if the institution were taxed in full. In essence, the city loses out on millions each year from the state

Stanley Quarter/AW Stanley Pond Dredging – The state DEEP has said the Lakes Grant Program is no longer available, which is why I am seeking your help. Families and visitors are not able to fully utilize our parks because of the poor condition of our ponds; from geese droppings to overgrown invasive species the ponds are literally dying.

These water ways are beyond remediation and I know proposals to fix them will come in beyond our fiscal capacity. Our city takes great pride in its parks system and I do hope that we can restore these ponds to the once pristine recreational standards. The city is currently receiving proposals from architectural and engineering firms detailing their solutions to the issue, which will most likely include dredging. Please see attached letters between the city and DEEP.

Regional Police Shooting Range – The city does not have a shooting range for mandatory training and certification of its police officers. We have been trying to coordinate a regional solution with several towns in the same position mainly, Bristol, Plainville, Southington, Burlington and Wolcott. The cost to send officers out of town to train is extremely high. There are other overtime costs associated as law enforcement has to schedule replacement officers back home.

The location we suggested on Watershed land the city owns in Burlington was not suitable and state regulations made it impossible to salvage. We are still seeking a location close by so we can be sure our officers are meeting their gun qualification benchmarks on an annual basis.

We are still communicating with CRCOG and looking for funds to make this shared project a reality.

Education Costs - As always we request you all continue to advocate for equitable funding in our schools. In addition to the Alliance District monies the city receives we are also seeking for the first time reimbursement for the additional students we have enrolled from Puerto Rico and other hurricane ravaged communities.

We are at capacity and have no additional funds to continue at the rate we are currently operating. As of January 19, 2018 New Britain has 204 active students from kindergarten through the 12th grade. As of this memo, a number of the students 60 have been tested and qualify for costly special education. A majority of the students also enter with little or no English language experience and are in our English Language Learner program. The district has created additional classrooms and are asking reading specialists to go back to classroom teaching because there is no money to hire additional staff. In all, the cost to educate the additional students is approximately \$1 million.

The CCSU/Ana Grace Center located at 185 Main Street was the gateway in the beginning but is now closed. Remaining winter clothing items, school and hygiene supplies have been moved to the district central office and school social workers, counselors and administrators have been instructed to seek assistance for these items through normal channels of contacting Joe Vaverchak, who oversees our homeless students and other students who are in need. Any hurricane victim students who continue to register will still be given information regarding 211 and referred to city service agencies like HRA, through our registration offices with support from our Family Resource Center staff.

Enclosed is a letter from our Superintendent of Schools requesting help from the State Department of Education. I encourage you to refer to it. With the recent ruling overturning CCJEF we are not hopeful for additional money. Our Board of Education has asked the city for a 3.72% increase, or \$4.7 million more in their budget.

Clean Water/Sewer Discharge - As just a reminder in previous memo's we have discussed a few issues that are still pending; Phase 2 of the sewer upgrades and roadway reconstruction of

Allen Street. The sewer upgrades on Allen Street are the most pressing as storm drains from McClintock to Stanley Street have been backing up on a regular basis. I understand the financial constraints the state is facing, but this is a definite hazard we hope to mitigate.

It is important to note, that we continue to have concerns regarding the consent decree requirements related to Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance Program (CMOM) for the Sanitary Sewer System and additional regulations from the federal government regarding Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4).

Both of these issues are extremely costly. As it stands now compliance of CMOM will require the city to do about \$20 million in investments to the Sewer System beginning this year. And there are an estimated \$1 million in costs for additional work related to MS4 compliance. Any financial assistance on this mandate would be appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, I would be happy to meet to discuss these issues further. I look forward to working with you throughout this session and into the future.



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

EST. 1871

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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MEMORANDUM

TO:

REP. WILLIAM PETTIT
REP. RICK LOPES
REP. BOBBY SANCHEZ
REP. PETER TERCYAK

FR:

MAYOR ERIN E. STEWART

DT:

January 9, 2019

RE:

NEW BRITAIN LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2019 SESSION

In anticipation of a new administration coming into office and a very busy legislative session, I would like to share the city of New Britain's 2019 Legislative Priority list. The advocacy of our delegation members is imperative to success. I look forward to your continued efforts to secure support at the state level for our City. These projects are in no particular order.

CMERS reform – The Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System is the public pension plan provided by the state for participating employees. Membership in the system is mandatory for nearly all employees of a participating municipality who are regularly employed on a full-time permanent basis. You remain a member-in-service until you separate from the municipality by reason of retirement, failure of re-election or re-appointment, resignation or removal or discharge from your position or office that you hold. The law requires the retirement fund to remain funded to the balance that actuaries have recommended. This guarantees to the members the availability of funds to pay their benefits when they retire. Your contributions pay only a small part of the cost of your retirement benefits. We make contributions at rates set by the State Retirement Commission to fund the remaining cost. We also contribute toward the administrative costs of the plan. However, when an employee retires their overtime is calculated into the benefit. This is costly and should be taken out of the equation. The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities is also interested in moving this policy forward.

PILOT funding – As you know, the city of New Britain relies heavily on payment in lieu of taxes from the state. In recent years we have received only a small portion of this money. 48% of all real property in the city is exempt from property tax, creating a large imbalance in our budget. While we get a PILOT grant to help make up the difference, it is only a fraction of what we would receive if the institutions were taxed in full. In essence, the city loses out on millions each year from the state

Without the ability to collect any tax from these exempt properties – and a state that is unable to reimburse us fully - we bear a heavy burden to make do with what we have

and still provide services to tens of thousands of residents. I am encouraging the delegation to fight to maintain the level of PILOT dollars we receive today, and would further encourage you to advocate for equity in the formula used to calculate reimbursement dollars. For instance this past budget year the city received a decrease in municipal aid from the state to the tune of \$1.2 million dollars.

Non-Profit Taxing/Service Fee Authority - It would be extremely helpful to municipalities if the state would allow the local authority to institute a service charge for services on non-profits. I am asking for enabling legislation to allow the city to do so on non-profits who are exempt from property tax. This money would go a long way in paying for public safety and other municipal services which local government must provide. Currently, these services are provided without reimbursement. The city currently does not collect any taxes on 48% of property due to these exemptions.

Doerr's Pond/AW Stanley Pond Dredging – Families and visitors are not able to fully utilize our parks because of the poor condition of our ponds; from geese droppings to overgrown invasive species the ponds are literally dying. These water ways are beyond remediation and I know proposals to fix them will come in beyond our fiscal capacity. Our city takes great pride in its parks system and I do hope that we can restore these ponds to the once pristine recreational standards. The city is currently receiving proposals from architectural and engineering firms detailing their solutions to the issue, which will most likely include dredging. The state DEEP has said the Lakes Grant Program is no longer available, which is why I am seeking your help. Please see attached letters between the city and DEEP. The city has allocated bonded funds in 2018 for the dredging of Stanley Quarter Pond. Additional resources are needed for our other two ponds.

Regional Police Shooting Range – The city does *not* have a shooting range for mandatory training and certification of its police officers. We have attempted to coordinate a regional solution with several towns in the same position mainly, Bristol, Plainville, Southington, Burlington and Wolcott with no success. The cost to send officers out of town to train is extremely high. There are other overtime costs associated as law enforcement has to schedule replacement officers back home. We are currently seeking a location that is suitable and close by so we can be sure our officers are meeting their gun qualification benchmarks on an annual basis. It will most likely cost money to make sure safety and environmental concerns are adhered to in the construction of the range and I am seeking your help in securing funds to make this a reality. We have involved CRCOG, but have hit a standstill.

Officer Involved Shootings, (OIS) – Current legislation requires an independent investigation by a State's Attorney from an outside jurisdiction for an officer involved shooting incident. . This separation is the right thing to do on many levels. However, the appropriate priority and resources need to be put in place to allow these State's Attorneys to complete the investigations in a more timely fashion. To be consistent with the first pillar of the completed report from President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing we must do this. You can follow this link to the DOJ COPS site and

download the full report:

https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf

This first pillar is the foundation from which the other five pillars are built upon by establishing transparency, accountability and legitimacy for law enforcement. We have unfortunately experienced this OIS process first hand, the system in place now, in my opinion, is **not** transparent and unintendedly diminishes police legitimacy. This is not due to police department level decisions, but at the court and state level processes.

This could be remedied to a degree by requiring such investigations to be at the highest priority and be given a reasonable time limit for completion. We are not suggesting an unfunded mandate or shortcutting the process. Rather, suggesting the state allocate appropriate funds to make sure the resources are in place to make sure investigations like this are concluded in normal circumstances within six months. The toll on the community, the affected families and our police agencies is just too high when these investigations are prolonged. This timetable will no doubt have a cost, but it is a cost that is necessary to address so many societal concerns in a more responsive yet fair manner.

Tougher Criminal Sanctions on Firearm Related Crimes - A recent example in New Britain in fall 2018 was a seventeen year old caught driving around with three other friends near midnight in New Britain with drugs and guns. The seventeen year old was found to be sitting with one of the loaded weapons directly under his seat and well within his reach in the car. This seventeen year old said he was aware of the firearms' location and stated to officers the gun was his. The judge would **not** sign an Order to Detain for the seventeen year old juvenile. Instead officers had to give this teen a **ticket** for running the streets in the middle of the night with drugs and guns. In another incident from December 2018 an out of town eighteen year old was arrested downtown after officers observed a loaded handgun in his waistband. Under current Bail Enforcement rules, this male was released a period of time later by the Bail Commissioner. Carrying a firearm illegally should be dealt with as if it were a serious crime. We have had far too many instances like this other than the two mentioned. It is a serious concern for public safety in our city.

Juvenile Justice Reform – This is by far the biggest area of concern in our cities and soon will be reaching into the suburbs. The entire system has faltered greatly in the last several years when it comes to reducing recidivism and keeping our communities safe. Car thefts and larcenies from motor vehicles are increasing. Most of these crimes are committed by juveniles (persons under eighteen years of age).

Often times the stolen cars are used by the juveniles to commit yet even more serious crimes such as robbery and seldom will they stop when signaled by an officer to do so, which puts the safety of all at risk. The system does not effectively stop or even slow down the behavior. When a juvenile is actually sent to detention after numerous crimes committed, they now obtain weekend furloughs, allowing them to go back to their home community for the weekend which just compounds the problem on the busiest days of the week for the police. Juveniles are becoming increasingly brazen in their crimes and

act without regard to their safety or the safety of others. A serious look needs to be taken of the entire Juvenile Criminal Justice System. We need to keep our children safe and protect our community from criminals. A separate letter will be sent to you detailing New Britain's current issues regarding motor vehicle larceny/ theft and juveniles.

Stricter Penalties for Drivers of Dirt Bikes & Quads failing to obey officer signals - This applies specifically to Dirt bikes, Quads and other similar motor vehicles. This epidemic of reckless drivers overtaking our city streets needs to be dealt with in a manner that brings consequence. This should go along with the cities recently implemented new policy to automatically seize the motor vehicles. The running of intersections, stop lights, wrong lane driving and excessive speeds pose more of a threat to public safety than many other crimes.

EMS – change the Medicaid rate of reimbursement – This rate hasn't been updated since 2013. Medicaid rates for 9-1-1 call EMS services remain 40-60% below the cost of providing services. Unlike Medicare which includes an annual COLA linked to Chained CPI, there is no opportunity for 911 EMS organizations to benefit from a COLA to assure the rates reimbursed keep up with increases in the cost of providing services in Connecticut. The last adjustment to the Medicaid Rate structure occurred in 2013 when the EMS reimbursement fee structure was changed to replicate the Medicare reimbursement formula. Services currently received \$267.00 for a Basic Life Support Emergency, \$317.00 for an Advanced Life Support Emergency Response and transport + \$2.00 per loaded mile. This change would greatly help NBEMS.

Incorporate the International Property Maintenance Code into the State Building Code – Communities should be able to establish minimum maintenance standards for basic equipment, light, ventilation, heating, sanitation and fire safety. This may be a solution to setting a readily recognizable standard which can be used to educate and hold a minimum standard across jurisdictions that code enforcement officials can train to. In addition we ask that the Concord data base of LLC's in Connecticut be maintained better for more accurate information, so that information can be used to serve notice to owners who are not in compliance with standards and laws.

Evicted Tenant Mandate - Although some relief was provided in 2010 by eliminating the mandate that required towns and cities to *transport* the possessions of evicted tenants — the existing mandate to store such items continues to drain local finances and resources. While municipalities are allowed to try to recoup some of the costs by auctioning off the items, municipalities must incur costs associated with conducting an auction (including publicizing the auction, etc.).

In addition, typically the possessions are not sellable — ultimately, the municipality receives little or no reimbursement. Municipalities should not be dragged into what is essentially a landlord-tenant issue. It has cost the city of New Britain tens of thousands of dollars annually to store and auction off these items. This should burden should be put on the shoulders of the tenant & landlord.

Education Cost sharing dollars (ECS) - As always, we request you all continue to advocate for equitable funding in our schools. ECS is vital to our district as we are an Alliance district.

In previous memo's we have discussed a few issues that are still pending; **funding for the rebuild of our dog pound (Berlin has indicated they are not interested in sharing resources), paving the New Britain Stadium parking lot, and Phase 2 of the sewer upgrades and roadway reconstruction of Allen Street. The sewer upgrades on Allen Street are the most pressing.** I understand the financial constraints the state is facing and was hopeful last year's efforts would have prevailed.

It is important to note, that I also remain concerned regarding the consent decree requirements related to Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance Program (CMOM) for the Sanitary Sewer System and additional regulations from the federal government regarding Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). Both of these issues as you know are extremely costly.

As it stands now, compliance of CMOM will require the city to do about \$20 million in investments to the Sewer System. And there are an estimated \$1 million in costs for additional work related to MS4 compliance. I have attached a separate memo with more specifics addressing these projects as a reminder.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, I would be happy to meet to discuss these issues further. I look forward to continuing our positive working relationship throughout this session and into the future.



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

EST. 1871

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

WWW.NEWBRITAINCT.GOV

MEMORANDUM

TO: REP. WILLIAM PETT
REP. RICK LOPES
REP. BOBBY SANCHEZ
REP. PETER TERCYAK
SEN. GENNARO BIZARRO

FR: MAYOR ERIN E. STEWART

DT: December 18, 2019

RE: NEW BRITAIN LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2020 SESSION

The advocacy of our delegation members is imperative to the success of New Britain. As this year's session is a short one, I have kept my list brief. I look forward to your continued efforts to secure support at the state level for our city. **These projects are in no particular order.**

Hartford Road Land Swap – The city and state have land that will be swapped in a purchase agreement. The city has agreed to buy land from the state that sits on Hartford Road across from Target and Costco. The state will purchase land from the city that sits behind the frontage. A portion of the land we are selling to the state will be turned into a commuter lot. The city would like your support on this agreement should it come before the legislature. This is one of the last pieces of developable property within the city limits and would help the city grow its grand list.

The city has been in negotiations with the state for the latter part of 8 years regarding this property. We are hopeful that you can help us come to a conclusion soon. We have been back and forth with The Department of Transportation and Attorney General's office and are waiting on the Office of Policy and Management for its final approval. The city has an interested buyer in this parcel and we are asking for your help in finalizing this deal and closing this file once and for all.

East Side Community Center – I am looking for help from the state through a public, private partnership in the construction of a community center on the east side of town. Through the work of the 'Invest Health' grant, partners have successfully created the teen center located at 600 East Street. The space is bursting at the seams and expansion is a necessity. We would anticipate this project to cost between; \$6-\$8 Million. There are three opportunities for this center, the old Aquinas High School

renovation, the purchase and renovation of 600 East Street, or the new construction of a center at Chelsey Park. The plans are in place, and there is much potential for a public private partnership due to connections made from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Invest Health Initiative through the YWCA. I am worried that the owner of 600 East Street will soon sell the building to a self-storage facility.

PILOT funding – As you know, the city of New Britain relies heavily on payment in lieu of taxes from the state. In recent years we have received only a small portion of this money. 48% of all real property in the city is exempt from property tax, creating a large imbalance in our budget. While we get a PILOT grant to help make up the difference, it is only a fraction of what we would receive if the institutions were taxed in full. In essence, the city loses out on millions each year from the state

Without the ability to collect any tax from these exempt properties – and a state that is unable to reimburse us fully - we bear a heavy burden to make do with what we have and still provide services to tens of thousands of residents. I am encouraging the delegation to fight to maintain the level of PILOT dollars we receive today, and would further encourage you to advocate for equity in the formula used to calculate reimbursement dollars. For instance in 2019 the city received a decrease in municipal aid from the state to the tune of \$1.2 million dollars.

Non-Profit Taxing/Service Fee Authority - It would be extremely helpful to municipalities if the state would allow the local authority to institute a service charge for services on non-profits. I am asking for enabling legislation to allow the city to do so on non-profits who are exempt from property tax. This money would go a long way in paying for public safety and other municipal services which local government must provide. Currently, these services are provided without reimbursement. The city currently does not collect any taxes on 48% of property due to these exemptions.

Education Cost sharing dollars (ECS) - As always, we request you all continue to advocate for equitable funding in our schools. ECS is vital to our district as we are an Alliance district. It does not go unnoticed that New Britain did receive more education dollars last budget cycle from the state which is immensely helpful.

Chamberlain Elementary School Construction – We anticipate that the Chamberlain renovations will be on the school priority construction list for 2020, we would appreciate your advocacy and support.

Dredging Ponds – The city has several ponds that are in desperate need of dredging to bring them back to the water quality they should be in (AW Stanley, Marth Hart, and Stanley Golf Course). We have already begun work on Stanley Quarter Park pond. The city needed to foot the bill in its entirety because of public health concerns. It is costing the city about \$150,000 for engineering and design and permitting. We still have to go

out to bid for the construction and safe handling of the dredging materials which industry experts say can be well over a million dollars for one pond. As we look to plan for the future, we are seeking any grant funding the state may have to tackle these environmental hazards that we just don't have the capital to fix all at once.

Dams – The city owns seven high-hazard dams which are in need of repairs. We are seeking any state support to help pay for these expensive fixes. The dams are necessary to keeping the water levels safe. Any breaks could be catastrophic to residents and businesses down the line. We are currently working with CTDEEP on the Emergency Action Plans for all of these dams at a cost of more than \$300,000. An inspection study to evaluate their structural integrity is also underway. The dams include; Shuttle Meadow Dam , Wasel Reservoir Dam, Wasel Reservoir Dike, Upper Harts Pond Dam , Lower Harts Pond Dam, Wolcott Reservoir Dam, Wolcott Reservoir Dike.

Gasification Plant – The city is in the process of seeking proposals to build a waste disposal facility. It has become increasingly expensive to get rid of not only recyclables but regular trash. If the city can find a developer with a vision to help us, then I ask that you also help by advocating on behalf of the city to get CT DEEP's support.

In previous memo's we have discussed a few issues that are still pending including; funding for the rebuild of our dog pound (Berlin has indicated they are not interested in sharing resources), paving the New Britain Stadium parking lot (\$900,000), and Phase 2 of the sewer upgrades and roadway reconstruction of Allen Street. **The sewer upgrades on Allen Street are the most pressing.**

It is important to note, that I also remain concerned regarding the consent decree requirements related to Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance Program (CMOM) for the Sanitary Sewer System and additional regulations from the federal government regarding discharge of storm water from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). Both of these issues as you know are extremely costly.

As it stands now, compliance of CMOM will require the city to do about \$20 million in investments to the sewer system. And there are an estimated \$1 million in costs for additional work related to MS4 compliance.

I would be happy to meet to discuss these issues further. I look forward to continuing our positive working relationship throughout this session and into the future.



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

EST. 1871

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

WWW.NEWBRITAINCT.GOV

MEMORANDUM

TO: REP. WILLIAM PETTIT
REP. EMMANUEL SANCHEZ
REP. BOBBY SANCHEZ
REP. PETER TERCYAK
SEN. RICK LOPES

FR: MAYOR ERIN E. STEWART

DT: January 7, 2021

RE: CITY OF NEW BRITAIN LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2021

As I have done in the past, I would like to share the City of New Britain's Legislative Priority List. Your continued advocacy in these projects is extremely helpful in ensuring the City sees success in these matters. **These projects are in no particular order.**

Dredging of City Ponds – We have begun the process of dredging the major ponds in our City. The Common Council has already approved \$1.5 million dollars through bonding for the dredging of Stanley Quarter Park. The project will go out to bid in the early summer and is estimated to begin work in the fall. A significant cost saving measure will be the ability to take the waste from the pond and move it to our landfill on Christian Lane in Berlin. We are currently awaiting approval from CT DEEP for this aspect of the work. Additionally, it will be necessary to do the same to the ponds at AW Stanley Park and Martha Hart Park. It is expected the cost of each of those projects would be over \$1 million as well. Assistance in receiving any grant funding, and also expediting the process with CT DEEP for the Stanley Quarter project, would be extremely beneficial in seeing these projects move forward.

Non-Profit Taxing/Service Fee Authority - It would be extremely helpful to municipalities if the state would allow the local authority to institute a service charge for services on non-profits. I am once again asking for enabling legislation to allow the city to do so on non-profits who are exempt from property tax. This money would go a long way in paying for increases to education funding, public safety, and other municipal services which local government must provide. Currently, these services are provided without reimbursement.

Police Body Camera Funding – In August of 2020, I sent a letter to then members of the delegation, requesting assistance with the purchase and maintenance of body

cameras which are now mandated for our Police Department. Since that letter, we have tested out options from different companies and it has become clear that the product from Axon stands out above the rest. The initial cost for set up would be between \$400-500k with a yearly maintenance and licensing fee of \$200k. Additionally this would require us to hire one (1) full-time employee to maintain all of the data. Once again I am requesting that the program outlined in Section 20 of HB 6004 be funded, and funds be made available to New Britain to help offset these costs.

St. Thomas Aquinas Demolition – For over 20 years now, the former St. Thomas Aquinas High School has sat vacant and been an eye-sore for residents on the East end of New Britain. While proposals have come before the Council in the past, none of them have been able to come to fruition for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, the current state of the building. In 2018 we sent a letter to DECD requesting emergency assistance funds, and never received a reply. Our Building Department has deemed the structure as “unsafe” and recommends that it be demolished as soon as possible. The total estimated cost of the project is about \$2 million, which includes demolition, engineering, environmental reports, and hazardous waste removal. Funding for this would allow us to get rid of long-standing blight, and in turn be able to market it for development.

Chamberlain Elementary School Construction - We are very thankful that we qualify for a 95% reimbursement thanks to the delegation’s efforts, however I am very afraid the project is in jeopardy. The Board of Education has challenged the School Building Committee’s authority in hiring of Ray Moore as the owner’s project representative. This led to the BOE refusing to cooperate with the project, including the processing of payment for work that has already been completed, risking potential litigation against the City. I am asking you to request the School Building Committee and the Consolidated School District work together and demand they move forward under the direction of our charter and local ordinances. This may warrant a separate meeting

Overlook Avenue Drainage Repairs – The area of Overlook Avenue between Selander and Jordan Streets has been historically prone to periodic flooding during rainstorms. There are a total of 68 houses that fall within this area with many of them being multi-family homes. After what was deemed to be a “25 year storm” which took place October 2, 2018, the City contracted with Tata and Howard to do a drainage study to see what necessary work would need to be done, to prevent this flooding from happening in the future. The approximate cost of the project would be \$2 million dollars, which would include improving the hydraulic alignment of the pipes that run together in that area, and also the total replacement of an undersized pipe which results in the flooding. We would be able to provide you with the full study from Tata and Howard per your request.

Phase 2 of Sewer Upgrades and Roadway Reconstruction of Allen Street – Allen Street is one of the City's longest and busiest thoroughfares. This project was split into two phases and is critical to resolving chronic issues including flooding due to storm sewer failures, sanitary sewer backups and breaks due to insufficient capacity, and the general disrepair of the road surface and sidewalks. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2015 and covered the portion of Allen Street from Farmington Avenue to Oak Street. The cost of that phase was approximately \$2million which was paid for by funds from a LOCIP grant and the City's Infrastructure Bond. Cardinal Engineering estimates that the City would need \$6 million to complete Phase 2 of this project.

The list above is far from exhaustive, as there are a myriad of areas where the State can continue to assist in New Britain's turnaround. These items represent our most pressing and/or actionable projects. As always, we request you all continue to advocate for equitable funding in our schools, and fair solutions for our lack of PILOT dollars.

I look forward to working with you all during this upcoming legislative session and continuing our positive working relationship. I would be happy to make myself available to meet with you all to discuss any of these issues further.



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

EST. 1871

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

WWW.NEWBRITAINCT.GOV

MEMORANDUM

TO: REP. WILLIAM PETTT
REP. EMMANUEL SANCHEZ
REP. BOBBY SANCHEZ
REP. PETER TERCYAK
SEN. RICK LOPES

FR: MAYOR ERIN E. STEWART

DT: December 21, 2021

RE: CITY OF NEW BRITAIN LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2022

As I have done in the past, I would like to share the City of New Britain's Legislative Priority List for the 2022 Legislative Session. Your continued advocacy in these projects is extremely helpful in ensuring the City sees success in these matters. **These projects are in no particular order.**

Dredging of City Ponds – The dredging projects, are a necessary improvement that must be made to the ponds at Stanley Quarter, A.W. Stanley, and Martha Hart. Fortunately, the City has been able to fund the project at Stanley Quarter which is scheduled to take place in 2022. We are still waiting our engineering firm to receive their permits, which have been awaiting approval by DEEP for several months. Any help expediting this process from DEEP would be greatly appreciated. After the dredging project at Stanley Quarter is completed, the City will begin exploring all potential grant possibilities for the projects at A.W. Stanley and Martha Hart which are anticipated to cost over \$1 million each.

Police Department Mandates – With the passage of The Police Accountability bill in last year's legislative session, the City of New Britain, has seen significant additional cost increases due to the new mandates. While these mandates also affect all other municipalities in Connecticut, the financial impact for our City is far greater than most. Currently, the City is responsible for annual costs \$10,725 in state mandated drug screenings, \$9,075 in state mandated mental health screenings, \$142,423 in an annual subscription to Axon to maintain our body worn cameras, and a one-time payment of \$441,870 for mobile data recording system replacement costs that will effectively sync with our body cameras. Your assistance in providing financial assistance to help defray these new financial obligations, would ensure we can continue to provide the level of public safety that New Britain's residents deserve.

Overlook Avenue Drainage Repairs – The area of Overlook Avenue between Selander and Jordan Streets has been historically prone to periodic flooding during rainstorms. There are a total of 68 houses that fall within this area with many of them being multi-family homes. After what was deemed to be a "25 year storm" which took place October 2, 2018, the City contracted with Tata and Howard to do a drainage study to see what necessary work would need to be done, to prevent this flooding from happening in the future. The City began

and completed work on a small scale Phase I of this project in 2021 with an initial \$50,000 investment. We would be able to provide you with the full study from Tata and Howard per your request. The approximate cost of the overall project would be \$2 million, which would include improving the hydraulic alignment of the pipes that run together in that area, and also the total replacement of an undersized pipe which results in the flooding.

Phase 2 of Sewer Upgrades and Roadway Reconstruction of Allen Street – Allen Street is one of the City's longest and busiest thoroughfares. This project was split into two phases and is critical to resolving chronic issues including flooding due to storm sewer failures, sanitary sewer backups and breaks due to insufficient capacity, and the general disrepair of the road surface and sidewalks. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2015 and covered the portion of Allen Street from Farmington Avenue to Oak Street. The cost of that phase was approximately \$2 million which was paid for by funds from a LOCIP grant and the City's Infrastructure Bond. Cardinal Engineering estimates that the City would need \$6 million to complete Phase 2 of this project.

New Britain FLUSH Program Funding - The New Britain Fresh Line Upgrades for Sanitary Health (FLUSH) program is a massive investment in repairing and replacing the City's storm water and sewer lines and is desperately needed as our aforementioned infrastructure is over 100 years old. The New Britain FLUSH program aims to reduce the municipal and taxpayer costs associated with storm water infiltration into sewer lines, protect public health by reducing sewage backup, protect the environment by eliminating wastewater runoff, and promote community growth by increasing sewer capacity for expanded development. This project will likely take 8-10 phases of work to eliminate all of the problem areas identified with the City and is anticipated to cost roughly \$90 million. Currently, our sewer division is transferring \$1 million a year to a CMOM compliance fund for the repairs to the system and we have entered into phase 2 of the project. The funding for phase 1 and phase 2 were taken from our reserve account, the funding for the 3rd phase is pending as we have applied to the CT DEEP for a loan and a grant to cover sum of the cost. We are still trying to identify which areas will be included in phase 4 and 5, but have no source of funding identified as of yet. Your help and support attaining state monies to support areas of this project are critical to the success of New Britain's future and I am humbly asking for your assistance to attain the funds necessary to complete this important work.

PAL Complex Renovations – The passage of the American Rescue Plan Act afforded the City a unique opportunity to make a significant investment in the complete overhaul of Osgood Park. Initial project plans for the property include improvements or new features in almost every component of the park, however, with an estimated cost of an additional \$5 million, financial constraints have limited the City's ability to renovate/rebuild an expanded Police Athletic League building which sits onsite. The PAL building is currently staffed on a daily basis, and services a multitude of City youth however it is in dire need of improvements. An expansion would allow the building to simultaneously serve as a community center and provide an additional indoor gymnasium. Funding for this renovation of this building, would be the final piece to the Osgood Park Project, and the City would be able to move forward immediately with architectural and engineering work.

Juvenile Justice System Reform – It is a well-known and documented fact that communities across Connecticut are experiencing a crime wave specifically due to a rise in juvenile criminal activity. This is by far the biggest area of concern in our cities and soon will be reaching into the suburbs. The entire system has faltered greatly in the last several years when it comes to reducing recidivism and keeping our communities safe. To give some perspective of the crisis we are dealing with, Chief Chute has identified 9 repeat juvenile offenders that live in the City of New Britain. These 9 offenders are our worst offenders. On average, each of these offenders have been arrested 18 times between the ages of 12 and 17 years of age. Their crimes include but are not limited to: larceny, larceny of motor vehicles, burglary, theft of a firearm, possession of an assault rifle, possession of a high capacity magazine, criminal mischief, carrying a pistol without a permit, assault with a firearm, robbery with a firearm, disorderly conduct, assault, assault on police, threatening, operating without a license, reckless driving, and evading responsibility. The majority of these repeat juvenile offenders face no

serious consequences for their actions; released to their parents, with as little as a juvenile summons as a repercussion. This past year, we lost the life of someone directly in our community as a result of the State of Connecticut's failure to address this problem over the past few years; now is the time to act to fix this mess and keep the majority of our residents safe.

The list above is far from exhaustive, as there are many areas where the State can continue to assist in New Britain's turnaround. These items represent our most pressing and/or actionable projects. **As always, we request you all continue to advocate for equitable funding in our schools, and fair solutions for our lack of PILOT dollars.**

I look forward to working with you all during this upcoming legislative session and continuing our positive working relationship. I would be happy to make myself available to meet with you all to discuss any of these issues further.