



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## 2012 Legislative Agenda



**NEW HAVEN** IT ALL HAPPENS HERE



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## 2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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# Public Safety



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## RED LIGHT CAMERAS



**Problem:** With limited financial and policing resources, the City of New Haven is challenged to enforce traffic light safety throughout the City. Moreover, a number of intersections with multiple lanes and high volumes of traffic are difficult and dangerous places to pull drivers over. Red light running remains a persistent, dangerous problem in our community.

**Solution:** Enabling legislation would permit the installation of traffic signal enforcement cameras. The cameras would document the license plate of vehicles that run red lights. The technology has been tested and found effective, creating fair and indisputable photographic evidence of this violation.

**Affected Statutes:** New enabling legislation.

**Committees of Cognizance:** Judiciary, Planning and Development, Transportation



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## JOBS CORE JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

**Problem:** Although recidivism rates have declined slightly in Connecticut, over half of those released from prison are rearrested within two years, and 39 percent are convicted on new charges. Through the efforts of its Reentry Roundtable, the City has worked to



Photo courtesy of Allen Appel, New Haven Independent.

connect ex-offenders with services to help break the cycle of recidivism. Despite these efforts, one barrier that is difficult to overcome continues to be unemployment.

**Solution:** Create a PILOT program in the City of New Haven with a wrap around Workforce Training / Jobs Core program that would be modeled after Michigan's Inner-City Neighborhood Project (recognized as a model of justice reinvestment by the Council of State Governments Justice Center), which takes a neighborhood-based, employment-focused approach where reentering individuals help to rebuild neighborhoods through wage labor and community service. The program, which would be funded through Federal (Workforce), State and Local funds would cost a total of \$1.2M annually. Of that **\$750,000** would come from the state, paid for by the reduction in the costs of incarceration—justice reinvestment. The program would serve 100 individuals identified as most at-risk for reoffending.

**Affected Statutes:** Appropriation

**Committees of Cognizance:** Higher Education & Employment Advancement, Judiciary, Appropriations



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES

**Problem:** One of the driving forces behind the decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana was the multitude of collateral consequences associated with the offense. The American Bar Association estimate that 633 such consequences exist for individuals convicted of a felony in Connecticut<sup>1</sup>. These consequences are often unknown to the public, including those individuals who may be making a plea deal, and admitting guilt to an offense for a lesser sentence.

**Solution:** Require the State Judicial Department to maintain a listing of the collateral consequences that exist to each classification of offense.

**Affected Statutes:** Enacting Legislation

**Committees of Cognizance:** Judiciary



<sup>1</sup> <http://isrweb.isr.temple.edu/projects/accproject/pages/GetStateRecords.cfm?State=CT>





# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## MANDATORY SENTENCING GUIDELINES FOR GUN OFFENCES

**Problem:** Individuals with gun offences have among the highest rates of recidivism. Nearly one in seven gun offenders serve their full sentences. These individuals often do so for the most violent offences, or demonstrate



Photo courtesy of Tom McMillian, New Haven Independent

the worst behavior while incarcerated. When released, these individuals have no form of supervision.

**Solution:** While a gun offender registry would help to track these individuals post release, an alternate approach would be to mandate a term of supervision post release, adding a mandatory term of probation for any offense beyond the current mandatory sentencing guidelines enabling law enforcement to supervise those at greatest risk of re-offending.

**Affected Statutes:** 53a-28 and Subsection (c) of section 2-1e, subsection (a), (b) or (i) of section 29-33, section 29-34, subsection (a) of section 29-35, section 29-36, 29-36k, 29-37e or 29-37j, subsection (b), (c) or (g) of section 53-202, section 53-202b, 53-202c, 53-202j, 53-202k or 53-202aa, subsection (b) of section 53a-8, section 53a-55a, 53a-56a, 53a-60a, 53a-60c, 53a-72b, 53a-92a, 53a-94a, 53a-102a, 53a-103a, 53a-211, 53a-212, 53a-217a, 53a-217b or 53a-217c of the general statutes;

**Committees of Cognizance:** Judiciary, Public Safety

**Environment**





## CITY OF NEW HAVEN COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT



**Problem:** Nothing underscores the need for additional hazard mitigation along our City's coastline more than the damage sustained in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. The Coastal Management Act currently is skewed to mitigation efforts that

mirror the natural environment. New Haven's coastline is mostly fill from 60 years ago, but is rapidly eroding threatening existing structures, Long Wharf Drive and potential future developments. Many of the "natural" buffers that were installed to protect the coast line were washed away during the storm. Improvements must be made to better protect against future erosion.

**Solution:** A legislative change to enable permitting of "hard" improvements to restore the coastline and mitigate future damage in urban areas or existing areas that were created by fill.

**Affected Statutes:** CGS Chapter 444

**Committees of Cognizance:** Environment



## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

### MECHANICAL SEPARATION

**Problem:** While New Haven has made significant progress in increasing local recycling rates, there is still the potential for improvement. Every ton of trash costs \$87.50 to dispose of. For every ton of recycling the Solid Waste Authority earns \$28. Thus every ton of recyclables diverted saves \$115.50.



**Solution:** Cities like San Diego have achieved 80% diversion with mechanical separation. Amending state statutes to require diversion goals, but enabling municipalities to choose either source separation or mechanical separation may increase diversion rates.

**Affected Statutes:** CGS 22a-211

**Committees of Cognizance:**  
Environment, Planning & Development

Development



## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

### MULTIPLE (STATE & LOCAL) TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

**Problem:** With few options for large scale capital financing, economic development officials across the state are exploring more creative ways to build necessary infrastructure and fill financing gaps in



development projects. By way of example, the expansion of the medical district in New Haven will require a significant investment in roads to allow for business and institutional growth and job creation.

**Solution:** The proposed Multiple State/Local Tax Increment Financing (“M TIF”) program expands the traditional use of tax increment financing (underwritten by future property tax) to look at blended financing from property tax, sales and income taxes, all of which are generated from net new economic activity. The proposed program would dedicate a percentage of certain incremental state and local tax revenue streams, paid over up to 20 years, to supplement project cash flows, and direct the balance of net new tax revenues the state and local general fund(s). Projects should be approved by the local EDD and conform to smart growth principals.

**Affected Statutes:** Enabling Legislation

**Committees of Cognizance:** Finance, Revenue & Bonding



## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

### UNION STATION

**The Problem:** Parking continues to be a problem at the Union Station Garage. While the DOT has begun the planning process for the second garage construction is not anticipated to begin until 2013 and financing for the facility has not been identified. **The City does not support a parking only project.**



In addition, there is an opportunity to create a multi-functional transit oriented development with commercial and retail uses that would create a destination and strengthen the efforts to link the port, downtown and medical districts.

**The Solution:** Use the authority granted to the Governor in PA 11-1 Sec 80-88 to establish a public-private partnership project. Studies conducted by the New Haven Parking Authority demonstrate that the parking facility and associated development of the commercial and retail space at Union Station can be financed by the anticipated revenue stream. Authorization for a TTD Authority.

**Affected Statutes:** PA 11-1 Sec 80-88

**Committees of Cognizance:** Transportation, Finance, Revenue & Bonding



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## BROWNFIELD INVESTMENT

**Problem:** New Haven is fully built out. With few opportunities for new development, re-use and redevelopment are essential to growing the tax base. Potential development sites are vacant or underused for storage and warehousing activities, and environmental cleanup must occur in a timely fashion in order to accommodate new investment. While the State has made a strong commitment to Brownfield Remediation, the eligibility criteria does not prioritize job growth and smart growth principles.

**Solution:** Strengthen eligibility criteria for the Brownfield Development Loan Program, and other existing programs, to facilitate clean up and accelerate job creation. In addition to the key criteria of job creation, contribution to the tax base, ability to pay and experience, the State is encouraged to add additional criteria in order to prioritize investments that are – (1) Consistent with Regional CEDS; (2) Supports transit-oriented development; and (3) Supports reinvestment in state enterprise zones and rehabilitation areas.

**Affected Statutes:** CGS Chapter 297a



**Committees of Cognizance:** Planning & Development; Environment; Finance Revenue & Bonding





# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Problem:** Job training and skill development is critical in order to prepare the local workforce for the jobs being created in New Haven. City's local unemployment rate is now 12.9%, even though the jobs base is steady at 77,000 and growing with new development.

**Solution:** Retool existing Commission on Equal Opportunities and other programs to parallel WIA-funded initiatives at the local level. This solution leverages existing and planned construction opportunities with outreach and monitoring and adds-in a program for non-construction jobs, through coordination with Gateway



community College, Board of Education and Workforce alliance to develop tactical skills training programs and direct engagement with local-job creators. This new effort supports job creation in the high tech eds/meds sector as well as IT/new media, advanced manufacturing and other basic industries. Program overall supports or adds the following activities:

(1) Youth trade teams (19-24) with six month training course; (2) Construction trades training; (3) Support services; and (4) Placement services; and (5) Contract monitoring. Estimated program cost = **\$750,000**

**Affected Statutes:** CGS Chapter 556a

**Committees of Cognizance:** Higher Education and Employment Advancement; Appropriations, Finance, Revenue and Bonding.



## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

### REGIONAL POINTS OF COORDINATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Problem:** The Regional and State economy continue to languish. With statewide unemployment above 9%, the State needs to begin to aggressively develop creating jobs and new tax bases.

DECD does not have the capacity to manage to do this at an intensive level statewide. Connecticut should structure its economic development strategy to fast track job creation and business development by organizing at the regional level.



**Solution:** Using the structure established under Public Act 10-68, Economic Development Districts (EDDs), the state should establish new regional economic development programs with the funding and authority to manage and express projects for final DECD approval. This will not only facilitate and promote development but will advance the goals of regionalism and smart growth.

**Affected Statutes:** CGS Chapter 588ff

**Committees of Cognizance:** Planning and Development, Appropriations

# Education & Youth



## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

### TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP



**The Problem:** Connecticut's largest cities continue to feel the strongest impacts from the recession. New Haven's unemployment rate is currently 12.9%, and young people face an even higher hurdle statewide. More than 18 percent of Connecticut residents between the ages of 16 to 24 were reported as

unemployed in 2010. As we grow jobs and attract businesses to Connecticut, our educational system must give local students the skills and training they need to be competitive in a modern day employment market. A technical high school with strong connections to higher education and employers will be a key component to providing students with the specialized training, job skills, and relationships they need to find gainful employment.

**The Solution:** A new joint partnership between Gateway Community College and the New Haven Public Schools to provide specialized technical education and strong academics in a college setting. High school students will graduate with specialized technical training, job-ready skills, and college credit.

**Affected Statutes:** An initial planning grant for this concept of \$750,000.

**Committees of Cognizance:** Education; Higher Education; Finance, Revenue & Bonding



## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

**The Problem:** The City and State have invested million of dollars in the construction of new state of the art facilities. Many of these facilities were necessary because maintenance had been deferred or neglected at previous buildings. With tight budgets it is essential to protect these investments by adhering to a preventative maintenance schedule.

**The Solution:** Requiring a 20 year maintenance schedule in all school construction projects. Fund that schedule as part of the initial project allocation with the same share percentages as the overall project.

**Affected Statutes:** CGS Chapter 173

**Committees of Cognizance:** Education and Finance, Revenue and Bonding





## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

### PRE-SCHOOL FUNDING



**The Problem:** While the State has begun to raise the bar to require higher standards for pre-school educators, funding for our Early Childhood programs has not increased to help to attract and maintain this more highly educated workforce.

**The Solution:** Increase School Readiness funding to help the district to adequately compensate these teachers enabling the recruitment and retention of a more talented workforce.

**Affected Statutes:** Budget

**Committees of Cognizance:** Education, Appropriations





## CITY OF NEW HAVEN LITERACY INTERVENTIONS

**The Problem:** While early literacy interventions have consistency demonstrated impacts on student performance, funding for literacy interventions has declined. While the Priority School District Early Reading Success funding was eliminated in 2009, AARA monies have enabled the district to continue these programs. With the disappearance of AARA funds, these programs are now in jeopardy.



**The Solution:** Restore the Early Reading Success Program and **INCREASE** overall Priority School Grant funding for this program. In 2008 this program was funded at \$22M of which New Haven received approximately \$2.3M.

**Affected Statutes:** Budget

**Committees of Cognizance:** Education, Appropriations



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## YOUTH @ WORK SUMMER JOBS FUNDING

**The Problem:** With the loss of AARA funds fewer jobs are available for City youth. These summer jobs offer positive opportunities for youth to build work skills, learn financial literacy and stay busy for the summer months.

**The Solution:** Increase the Department of Labor Appropriation for the Connecticut's Youth Employment Program that is currently funded at \$3.5M statewide. As a sub grantee of the Workforce Alliance, the City of New Haven receives approximately 9% of the statewide allocation. This year's \$300k dollars funded 300 of the City's Youth @ Work participants.

**Affected Statutes:** Budget

**Committees of Cognizance:** Appropriations



Photo courtesy of New Haven Independent.



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## COMMUNITY CENTER

Photo courtesy of New Haven Independent.



**The Problem:** Currently, the city lacks a comprehensive community/youth center due to the bankruptcy and subsequent closure of the Q-House. The absence of such a center underscores the need to review how youth services are delivered and where such services are provided.

**The Solution:** Through community engagement the city will partner with active citizens, supporters of a community center concept and most importantly - youth, to determine the best location(s) for community centers and the services they should offer. Together with these partners, we will consider various locations including the Armory, the Q-house and other alternatives. Further, we will complete a Phase II Environmental review for the Armory site and begin schematic plans for a new facility.

**Affected Statutes:** \$250,000 Planning Grant

**Committees of Cognizance:** Appropriations, Finance Revenue & Bonding

# General Government



## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

### GRANDLIST REVALUATION

**Problem:** While work on the City's latest revaluation is not complete, we are beginning to look at what are potential impacts of the new valuations. Sales data suggests that while in some neighborhoods values have come down, others have held stable or even increased.



Until calculations are completed it is unknown how these changes will compare to the 2005 list, or the 2007 second year phase in freeze.

**History:**

Last Visual Revaluation - 2001  
First Million Dollar Home Sold in New Haven - 2004  
Last Revaluation - 2006  
First Year of Phase in - GL 06 FY 2008  
Second Year of Phase in - GL 07 FY 2009  
Enabling Legislation for Phase in Freeze - PA09-06  
Phase in Freeze - GL 08 FY 2010 to GL 10 FY2012  
New Visual Revaluation - October 2011

**Solution:** To be determined.

**Affected Statutes:** CGS 12-62

**Committees of Cognizance:** Finance Revenue & Bonding



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## PILOT & PEQUOT FUNDING

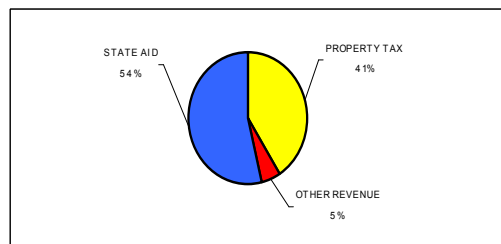
**The Problem:** While State Funding for PILOTs & PEQUOT has remained flat over the last several years, costs have continued to rise. Because state funding has remained flat the cost of services has shifted toward the local tax payer. In FY 03 State Aid reflected 54% of the City's budget and local taxpayers covered 41% of the budget. In FY 12 State Aid represents only 43% of the City's budget while local taxpayers cover 47% of the costs.

**The Solution:** Fund the full statutory reimbursement rates or at least adjust state aid to reflect inflation that we see in Labor, Health Care and Utility costs. Use FY 03 as a base for adjustment.

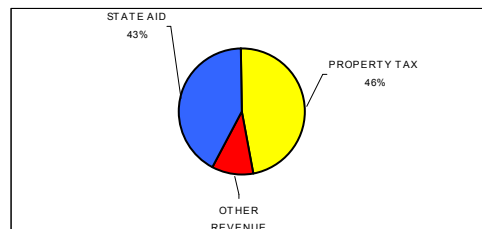
**Affected Statutes:** Budget

**Committees of Cognizance:** Appropriations

FY 02-03



FY 11-12







## CITY OF NEW HAVEN

### DISPOSAL OF ABANDONED VEHICLES



**Problem:** The State of Connecticut enables municipalities to report vehicles with over 5 delinquent parking tags to DMV for a registration hold. The New Haven Code of Ordinances establishes that vehicles with over \$200 in tickets can be impounded. In practice, the City will

boot vehicles for \$200 in delinquent tickets and tow for over \$400 in delinquent tickets. Many of these vehicle once impounded (by boot or tow) are later abandoned. State statute expressly enables the disposal of vehicles towed for delinquent taxes that are abandoned. There is no expressed power to dispose of vehicles impounded for delinquent tags.

**Solution:** Work with DMV to fix this administratively, or clarify the existing statute.

**Affected Statutes:** CGS 14-307 and 14-150

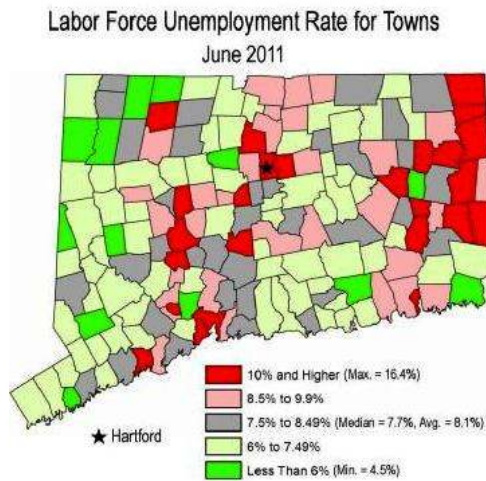
**Committees of Cognizance:** Transportation, Judiciary



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

**Problem:** There is a high level of unemployment in our communities. Statewide, the rate teeters at 8.5% and in the City of New Haven residents suffer with 11.7%<sup>1</sup> unemployment. This situation has led to increased frustration by residents who feel that their local tax dollars should go to local workers. Residents want to see more of their neighbors hired to City jobs.



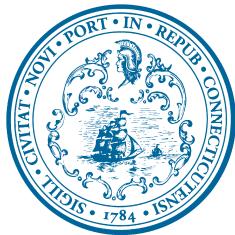
Map 1. Source: CT Dept. of Labor Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS).

**Solution:** Amend State Statutes to **ENABLE** municipalities with unemployment of over 10% as established by the most recent Connecticut Department of Labor *Market Information Report of Labor Force Data for Connecticut Towns* to establish greater regional residential preference and resident requirements for newly hired employees.

**Affected Statutes:** CGS Sec. 7-460b

**Committees of Cognizance:** Labor

<sup>1</sup> <http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/laus/lmi123.asp> as of December 2011



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

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