

## Public Policy Committee

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**Cynthia Tun, Edo Sushi Express**

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REV. 3/31/15



Waterbury Regional Chamber

## Municipal Agenda For the City of Waterbury 2015



# Municipal Agenda for the City of Waterbury 2015



## Mayor

Neil M. O'Leary

## Director of Operations

Joseph Geary

## Corporation Counsel

Linda Wihbey, Esq.

## Board of Aldermen

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Anthony T. Piccochi (Majority Leader)  
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Victor Lopez, Jr.  
Ryan A. Mulcahy  
Ronald A. Napoli, Jr.  
Jerry Padula  
Anne Phelan  
Christopher Ursini



**235 Grand Street  
Waterbury, CT  
203.574.6712**

## Public Education

- The public school system is a critical component of economic growth and development. Public education produces our future business leaders and employees alike. Apart from the intrinsic benefits of creating opportunities for students, improving the public school system helps maintain property values, retains and attracts residents committed to education enhancement, and supports business investment and growth in Waterbury through a skilled and ready workforce. Together, we will continue the dialogue on the state of the public education to chart a course for continued value improvement.
- Continue the open and continuous dialogue with the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to ensure student learning targets are reached. Also, continue to build upon expanding the neighborhood school concept to families and school communities in order to create strong and engaged education committed neighborhoods.

## Improving Waterbury's Image

The business community is committed to continually building and improving the image of Waterbury featuring the City as a desirable environment and location for businesses and consumers. We have built a committed partnership with The City of Waterbury and together we remain committed to the following initiatives and programs:

- Leverage marketing/public relations campaign with broad based support promoting Waterbury
- Sustain comprehensive marketing efforts for internal stakeholders and external target markets that enhance Waterbury's image and facilitates economic development initiatives The Waterbury NEXT initiative is designed to attract significant private investment in Waterbury that will encourage economic development and job creation. Likewise, the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (WATER) project is designed to reform and revitalize the city's landscape. These initiatives showcase the City's ability to move forward on key projects that will increase the quality of life and attract new investment and jobs and should be utilized in strategic marketing efforts.
- Continue to improve City services and the value provided by departments promoting ownership and pride in what Waterbury offers everyday
- Enhance "volunteerism" initiatives and expand participation through appropriate revisions in union contracts to address local and community organized clean-ups and improvements



Waterbury Regional Chamber  
*driving business to business*

Dear Member,

The Waterbury Regional Chamber is committed to the future of Waterbury as a premier place to live, work, invest and conduct business. The Chamber is proud of its strong record of successes working in partnership with the City's administration to move Waterbury forward.

The Chamber's Municipal Agenda for 2015 focuses on issues that are important not only to the business community, but to the Greater Waterbury community at large. Our priorities are in the areas of fiscal management, city governance, economic development and public education. These are vital components to the economic and social wellbeing of our City during these challenging economic times. Through this focus we can position ourselves to become a strong, viable location for continued business and job development. Through marketing and ongoing solicitation to developers and businesses, we continue to receive a great deal of interest working collaboratively with the City, Waterbury Development Corporation and Main Street Waterbury. In addition, we will work to support a productive and united, revised board of alderman as the changes to its composition are implemented following the recent referendum modifying the city charter. We will focus on assuring neighborhoods, neighborhood businesses as well as commerce and industry remain an engaged partner in Waterbury's future.

By establishing Waterbury as a highly desirable business location, responsive to the needs of the business community, we are building a foundation for future growth and investment that will benefit the community and business alike that enhance Waterbury's value and image and facilitates economic development initiatives.

Sincerely,

Don McPartland, ESQ.  
Public Policy Vice Chair  
Secor, Cassidy & McPartland, P.C.

# Municipal Agenda for the City of Waterbury 2015

## Fiscal Control and City Management

The Chamber continues steadfast support of responsible and transparent fiscal oversight, prudent fiscal measures and the effective financial management processes that have rebuilt accountability and performance standards for all City departments. It is our expectation that the administration continue to maintain the gains that were made in recent years and remain committed to the goals of prudent financial management and the benefits to residents and businesses alike.

Sound financial management and accountability, along with prudent public investment, are essential components of projecting a positive and stable environment for growth. We will work in partnership to continue to identify appropriate governmental reforms. We urge the administration to ensure that the City continues to reduce its pension liabilities and that all employee obligations are reported in a transparent fashion.

## Economic Development

The Waterbury Regional Chamber supports initiatives and programs that are intended to “expand” the commercial and industrial value of the grand list. Future business growth and capital expansion in Waterbury requires a commitment to achieve and maintain a reasonable mill rate that enables Waterbury to retain existing businesses and allow those here to thrive and grow, as well as attract new business investment and jobs.

### The City must continue to support the following measures:

- Continue to support policies that promote job creation, such as the recent revisions to the City’s outdated zoning regulations and one stop permitting center
- Support brownfields revitalization legislation and continue to leverage state brownfields revitalization funds preparing sites in the city for development.
- Continue to highlight and promote the leverage gained by the Grants Office and expand its ability to leverage future grant funding and opportunities on projects throughout the City, especially capital improvements
- Support completion of the Multi-modal Regional Transportation Center project
- Strongly support, encourage and prioritize state and federal monies for the completion of I-84 improvements in the Greater Waterbury transportation corridor through Waterbury and western Connecticut.
- Support the prioritization of the recommended the rebuild design for the I-84/ Route 8 interchange, which incorporates an economic impact analysis and supports the City’s economic development strategic plan
- Continue to aggressively work with private and public partners to rehabilitate underutilized and abandoned space in order to increase the inventory of industrial and commercial space available to optimize potential tax revenues and economic development
- Support the efforts and initiatives of the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board to meet the workforce training needs of local businesses, which consequently can help Waterbury lower what remains a high local unemployment rate
- Support the project efforts of the Waterbury Greenway, Loyola Development and improvements to the City Green;
- Partner with the Waterbury Development Corporation and Main Street Waterbury in their efforts to revitalize the city;

