

Public Policy Committee

Public Policy Committee

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James R. Strub, Esq., *Secor, Cassidy & McPartland PC*

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Waterbury Regional Chamber
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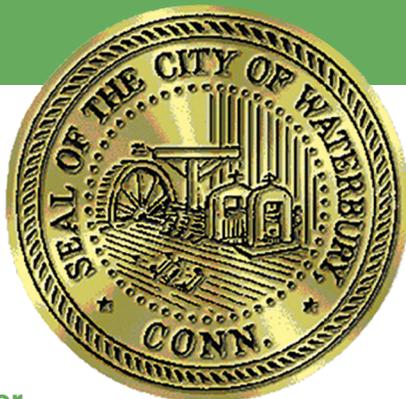
Waterbury Regional Chamber

2018 Municipal Agenda For the City of Waterbury



Photo Courtesy of The Waterbury Observer

Municipal Agenda for the City of Waterbury 2018



Mayor

Neil M. O'Leary

Director of Operations

Joseph Geary

Chief Advisor to the Mayor

George D'Agostino

Economic Development Director

Joseph McGrath

Policy Director

Mack Demac

Corporation Counsel

Linda Wihbey, Esq.

Board of Aldermen, by District

1st District:

Ernest M. Brunelli, (D-Majority Leader)

Christian D'Orso, (D)

Mary Grace Cavallo, (R)

2nd District:

Gregory A. Hadley, Sr., (D)

Victor Lopez, Jr., (D)

Vernon R. Matthews, Jr., (R)

3rd District:

Steven Giacomi, (R-Minority Leader)

Ronald A. Napoli, Jr., (D-President Pro Tempore)

Paul Pernerewski, (D-President)

4th District:

Michael DiGiovancarlo, (D)

Jetlir Kulla, (D)

George Noujaim, (R)

5th District:

Brenda L. Cotto, (D)

Sandra Martinez-McCarthy, (D)

Roger L. Sherman, Jr., (R)

Improving Waterbury's Image

The business community is committed to continually building and improving the image of Waterbury as a desirable environment and location for businesses and consumers. The Chamber has built a vibrant partnership with the city and remains committed to that partnership.

The Chamber recommends the City continue to support the following:

- Leveraging an online marketing/public relations campaign portal promoting Waterbury.
- Sustaining comprehensive marketing efforts that enhance Waterbury's image and facilitates economic development initiatives, such as Waterbury NEXT and the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (WATER) project, which showcase the city's ability to move forward on key projects that increase the quality of life and attract new investment and jobs.
- Continuing to improve city services and the value provided by departments promoting ownership and pride in what Waterbury offers every day.
- Continuing and, when possible, expanding the Waterbury Police Department's community policing program.



City Hall

235 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT

(203) 574-6712

Connect with your city



Public Education

The public school system is a critical component of economic growth and development. Public education produces our future business leaders and employees. Apart from the intrinsic benefits of creating opportunities for students, improving the public schools helps maintain property values, retains and attracts residents committed to enhancing education, and supports business investment and growth in Waterbury through a skilled and ready workforce. Together, we will continue the dialogue on the state of public education to chart a course for continued value improvement.

The Chamber recommends the City continue to support the following:

- ▶ The open and ongoing dialogue with the Board of Education and the new Superintendent of Schools to ensure student learning targets are reached and students demonstrate consistent progress toward achieving required academic skills at or above their grade levels.
- ▶ Working with public and private local post-secondary schools to ensure city students have opportunities to continue their education despite financial hardships.
- ▶ Building upon the neighborhood school concept to create strong, engaged and education-committed neighborhoods.
- ▶ Promoting STEM & Trade training opportunities as a viable option for a career after graduating from high school.
- ▶ Working with members of the state legislative delegation from Waterbury to correct the inequities in the Educational Cost Sharing formula.
- ▶ Leveraging a marketing/public relations campaign promoting Waterbury, including as a place for minority educators to work and thrive.
- ▶ Expanding the Robotics program to all city public high schools and middle schools, as well as to the fifth-grade level.
- ▶ Integrating electronic tablet technology (such as iPads or Chromebooks) to improve the delivery of curriculum and learning experiences for district students.



Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business
Waterbury Regional Chamber
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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 success in partnering with the City's administration to move Waterbury forward.

The Chamber's Municipal Agenda for 2018 focuses on issues important not only to the business community, but to the Greater Waterbury community as well. 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, developers and businesses continue to express a great deal of interest in working collaboratively with the city, Waterbury Development Corporation and Main Street Waterbury.

We also continue to focus on assuring that neighborhoods, neighborhood businesses, and commerce and industry remain engaged partners in the city's future.

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

Sincerely,

William J. Palomba
Vice Chair Public Policy
Chairman, Public Policy Committee
Blasius Chevrolet Cadillac

Fiscal Control and City Management

The Chamber steadfastly supports responsible and transparent fiscal oversight, prudent fiscal measures, and effective financial management processes, all of which have rebuilt accountability and performance standards for all city departments. We expect the administration to maintain the gains made in recent years and to remain committed to the goals of prudent financial management, which benefit residents and businesses alike.

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

We also support the administration's efforts to seek legislative reform of binding arbitration and relief from unfunded mandates at the state level.



Economic Development

The Waterbury Regional Chamber supports initiatives and programs that seek to expand the commercial and industrial value of the grand list. Business growth and capital expansion in Waterbury requires a commitment to achieving and maintaining a reasonable tax rate that enables existing businesses to remain, thrive and grow here, and attracts new business investment and jobs.

The Chamber recommends the City continue to support the following:

- Policies that promote job creation.
- Brownfields revitalization legislation at the state level, and leveraging state and federal brownfields revitalization funds to prepare sites in the city for redevelopment.
- Highlighting and promoting the leverage gained by the Grants Office and expanding its ability to leverage future grant funding and opportunities on projects throughout Waterbury, especially capital improvements.
- Completing the Multi-modal Regional Transportation Center project.
- Encouraging and prioritizing state and federal monies to complete the improvements to I-84 through Waterbury and western Connecticut.
- Prioritizing recommended safety improvements to the I-84/Route 8 interchange (the Mixmaster), while monitoring the design process for rebuilding the interchange to ensure it incorporates an economic impact analysis and supports the city's strategic plan for economic development.
- Aggressively working with private and public partners to rehabilitate underutilized and abandoned spaces in the city to increase the inventory of industrial and commercial space available and optimize potential tax revenues and economic development.
- Prioritizing coordinated efforts against blight to help improve the safety and security of neighborhoods and increase property values.
- The efforts and initiatives of the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board to meet the workforce training needs of local businesses and manufacturers, which will help reduce the city's unemployment rate.
- Partnering with the Waterbury Development Corporation and Main Street Waterbury in their efforts to revitalize the city, the downtown business district and Freight Street.
- The Waterbury NEXT Initiative's goals for improvements to the Central Business District.
- Recognizing and working with the arts and culture sector as a valuable asset to the community that has a positive impact on and contributes to the quality of life in the city while also creating jobs and serving as a stimulus for economic development.