



Wethersfield Avenue Streetscape Improvements

I was glad to work with Governor Malloy to secure state funding for streetscape improvements for a portion of Wethersfield Avenue from Eaton Street to the Wethersfield line.



Little League Opening Day

I was honored to stand with my colleague, Representative Minnie Gonzalez, and the Potros team during opening day ceremonies for the Minnie Gonzalez Little League at Hyland Park. Thanks to the hard work of many, over 300 Little Leaguers will be able to play baseball throughout the summer.

Your State Senator

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Representing Hartford & Wethersfield



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Rebuilding Wethersfield High

Wethersfield High School has been in need of significant repairs for many years, and construction is now well underway to add three new wings to the existing building and renovate much of its interior and exterior. I was proud to work with Representative Russ Morin and other members of the Wethersfield legislative delegation to secure an additional \$10 million in state funding to complete the project. The result will be a state-of-the-art school which everyone in town can be proud of. Our students deserve nothing less.



Keeping Flower Street Open

When the state D.O.T. sought to close Flower Street permanently as part of the CT Fastrak project, over the objection of neighborhood residents and business owners, I led passage of legislation seeking to block it. Flower Street has long connected Hartford's Asylum Hill and Frog Hollow neighborhoods, helping city residents to avoid heavy commuter traffic. Its closure would be a blow to both neighborhoods.



Increased City & Town Aid

State-owned property and colleges and hospitals are exempt from local property taxes. Because of this policy, cities and towns, including Hartford and Wethersfield, lose a significant amount of revenue and are reimbursed by the state with only a fraction of what each would receive if these properties were fully taxed. This year, I was successful in working for an increase in the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) reimbursements to cities and towns. Hartford and Wethersfield saw an increase of over \$2 million which will help avoid possible tax increases or painful service cuts.

In the last two years, working with Governor Malloy, the legislature has increased aid to cities and towns by \$125 million and funding for education by \$50 million.

John Fonfara

Critical Investments in Our Economy & Workforce

Representing Wethersfield and Hartford I am presented with both opportunities and challenges. Headquartered in my district is Connecticut's largest private employer, United Technologies. I worked closely with the Malloy administration to craft legislation to modernize facilities at Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky and other subsidiaries to keep and hopefully grow UTC's presence in Connecticut for many years to come. Combined with the \$2 billion commitment to make UConn a national leader in engineering, we have laid the groundwork for not only rebuilding our economy but also providing exciting career opportunities for your children and grandchildren.

As the world's economy changes, we are recognizing that a college degree is not for everyone. Some do not want to be saddled with a large amount of student loan debt, others are seeking a second chance at learning a skill that they didn't get the first time around. I am fully aware that many of my younger constituents fall into these two categories and I am committed to making our state government provide options for them.



Talking about the economy and the job market with two men at the Working Man's Center at The Open Hearth in Hartford as they search online for new employment.



This year I worked to secure \$3.5 million in establishing programs in the late afternoon and evening at Hartford's Prince Tech and other technical schools to provide young adults the opportunity to learn a trade in cabinetry, carpentry, masonry, manufacturing and weatherization. Each school day after 3 p.m., the vocational-technical school buildings and the machines inside go unused. These funds will put those machines to work training young adults from all backgrounds and circumstances in the skills that command desirable incomes and critical economic security.

Relief for Business Start-ups

The municipal property tax system in Connecticut discourages investments in real or personal property. Many business start-ups find it difficult to open because they must pay a property tax bill even if they've yet to realize any income. This year I worked to establish a pilot program in five towns which will allow the town and a commercial property owner to enter into an agreement in which the income of the business will be taxed, rather than the property, for an agreed upon period of time. I am hopeful that this tool will remove a barrier to more businesses starting up and creating more jobs.



With constituents during my Senior Fair last winter.

A Rebate for Senior Renters

Being able to stay in their own home is a top priority for many senior citizens; however, this is a challenge for those living on a fixed income. In order to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses, we've re-opened the Elderly Renters' Rebate Program. Eligible persons may apply between April 1 and October 1. Questions about the program and payments should be directed to the **Renters' Rebate Hotline** at 860-418-6377.

Homeownership in Hartford

The level of homeownership can be an important factor in the quality of life of a neighborhood. With higher levels of owner-occupied housing often comes improved neighborhood conditions including increased community involvement and improved educational performance.

This session, I was able to secure \$20 million in state housing funds to support new homeownership developments, primarily through conversion of three families and up, in Hartford and other cities.



However, in some Hartford neighborhoods the amount of owner occupied housing is less than 10 percent. To help attract homeowners into two designated tracts with very low owner-occupancy rates, we have established a pilot program which will provide certain tax exemptions to homeowners who live in the zone until the homeownership rate reaches 50 percent.

Connecticut has long used tax incentive programs to attract and retain businesses. This is the first time these tools will be used to help revitalize struggling neighborhoods and provide opportunities to families who want to stay in or move into Hartford.

Downtown on the Move



Three years ago I worked with the Malloy administration to commit \$60 million for new housing development that is now taking shape under the leadership of Mike Freimuth and the Capitol Region Development Authority (CRDA). Last year we committed new funds to make critical and overdue improvements to the XL Center. This year we authorized an additional \$30 million to CRDA for downtown development. And this June the move of the University of Connecticut Hartford Branch to downtown was finalized. The residents of Hartford's downtown have worked hard for years

to build a community. No longer are they alone. I am grateful to Governor Malloy for making the state a major partner in this effort.

Stopping Illegal Street Bikes



A number of constituents in Hartford and Wethersfield have contacted me about the growing presence of illegal street bikes as well as extremely loud motorcycles. I can assure you this problem has my attention. I have asked the University of Connecticut to

research the development of a "GPS" device that can adhere to an illegal street bike without endangering the driver or the public. I have also asked legislative staff to research imposing a surcharge on the sale of motorcycle mufflers that exceed the Federal EPA noise limits that all motorcycles are required to meet but, as we are hearing, many don't. Apprehending these vehicles is difficult because of "no chase" policies that the offenders are well aware of. But a neighborhood's quality of life and safety should not be sacrificed because a problem is difficult to solve.