

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL



SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

MEETING JUNE 22, 2020

7:00 P.M.

20. CARES ACT FUNDING ALLOCATION

21. MAYOR'S BUDGET VETOES

**CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103**



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

June 18, 2020

Honorable Maly D. Rosado, Council President, and
Members of the Court of Common Council
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: CARES Act Substantial Amendment to HUD Consolidated Plan (2015-2020) and 2019 Annual Action Plan

Dear Council President Rosado,

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded to Hartford certain supplemental funding under the CARES Act, including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) and Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA-CV), to assist the City of Hartford to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of COVID-19, invest directly in eligible activities to support our most vulnerable populations, and to provide assistance to our small businesses struggling with impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attached for your consideration is a resolution approving substantial amendment of the City's Consolidated Plan (2015-2020) and the Annual Action Plan for the program year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020 to address the community needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CARES Act Substantial Amendment outlines the City's intended use of approximately \$5.4 million for activities funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA-CV) programs.

We respectfully request that the Council adopt the CARES Act Substantial Amendment for the Consolidated Plan (2015-2020) and 2019 Annual Action Plan at your meeting scheduled for June 18, 2020, to permit timely submission of the necessary documentation to HUD by the end of this fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin".

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

**550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone (860) 757-9500
Facsimile (860) 722-6606**

INTRODUCED BY:
Luke A. Bronin, Mayor

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, June 18, 2020

WHEREAS, The City of Hartford has been awarded CARES Act funding including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) and Housing Opportunity for Person with AIDS (HOPWA-CV) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of COVID-19, invest directly in eligible activities to support our most vulnerable populations, and to provide assistance to small businesses struggling with impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS, The City of Hartford must complete and submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) a CARES Act Substantial Amendment to its Consolidated Plan (2015-2020) and the Annual Action Plan for the program year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020 as a condition of the CARES Act grants, to reflect the uses of the funds for activities and programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, The CARES Act Substantial Amendment outlines the City's intended use of approximately \$5.4 million in CARES Act funds, including \$2,185,057 in CDBG-CV, \$3,053,651 million in ESG-CV, and \$171,601 in HOPWA funding for activities and programs that prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, The CARES Act Substantial Amendment was developed according to HUD's CARES Act guidance regarding Citizen Participation, which included a virtual public hearing and a 5-day comment period that solicits citizen feedback on the needs of the community related to COVID-19 in areas such as Economic Development, and Public Services, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the following changes, reflecting CARES Act activities and allocations of funds, are approved and incorporated into the City of Hartford 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan for the program year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020:

CHANGE #1: ACCEPT CDBG-CV funds

The City has received notice of and accepts CDBG-CV funds award in the amount of \$2,185,057.

CHANGE #2: ACCEPT ESG-CV funds

The City has received notice of and accepts ESG-CV funds award in the amount of \$3,053,651.

CHANGE #3: ACCEPT HOPWA-CV funds

The City has received notice of and accepts HOPWA-CV funds award in the amount of \$171,601.

CHANGE #4: CDBG-CV FUNDING TO SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The City proposes to allocate \$ 750,000 towards Small Business Assistance to promote economic recovery and to expand economic opportunities in distressed areas. The activity will provide financial and technical assistance to create/retain jobs at businesses that have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed activity is consistent with the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan to create/retain Low-Moderate Income jobs.

CHANGE #5: CDBG-CV FUNDING TO PUBLIC SERVICES

The City is proposing to allocate \$ 1,400,000 to provide essential human services. The proposed allocation will provide non-duplicative services including but not limited to child care, health services, youth education and engagement programming, transportation, and internet connectivity, designed to support households led by working parents returning to work. These programs directly respond to need based upon impact of COVID-19 and are consistent with the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan goal of providing essential services to low- and moderate-income households.

The City is proposing to allocate \$35,057 to general administrative costs for CDBG-CV.

CHANGE #6: ESG-CV FUNDING TO OUTREACH, SHELTER, HOUSING, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The City is proposing to allocate funding to eligible program activities consistent with provider identification of need, and to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of COVID-19. Activities will prevent homelessness through the provision of short-term rental assistance and other activities, will expand homeless outreach, will safely expand shelter capacity, and provide housing search and rapid housing placement. This will include the following:

Activity: Rapid Rehousing

Budget Increase: \$1,500,000

Activity: Homeless Outreach

Budget Increase: \$300,000

Activity: Housing Search

Budget Increase: \$80,000

Activity: Shelter Capacity

Budget Increase: \$400,000

Activity: Homeless Prevention/Diversion/Short Term Rental Assistance

Budget Increase: \$650,000

Activity: Administration

Budget Increase: \$123,651

CHANGE #7: HOPWA-CV FUNDING TO HOUSING, HEALTH, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The City is proposing the HOPWA funds will be available for Persons Living With HIV/AIDS: Supportive Services and Resource Identification costs associated with efforts to establish, coordinate, and develop housing and related economic assistance resources for eligible persons, and to connect them to the provision of other grant and privately-funded services for the target population, including programming furthering improved health outcomes and workforce related services through improved administration. Provide quality housing and other services for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, increasing economic and housing stability and access to care.

The City is proposing to proportionately increase the contracts of each HOPWA provider subject to review of scope, budget, and CARES Act regulatory and administrative review, with focus to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of COVID-19 on HOPWA clients and their families. Funds not able to be allocated to a particular project will be reallocated in accordance with community need and provider capacity.

Project Title: Zezzo House

Budget Increase: \$16,313.59

Project Title: Chrysalis Center

Budget Increase: \$23,037.39

Project Title: ACT
Budget Increase: \$19,401.19

Project Title: Hands on Hartford
Budget Increase: \$46,933.84

Project Title: HRA
Budget Increase: \$27,793.49

Project Title: Mercy Housing and Shelter
Budget Increase: \$19,618.93

Project Title: Saint Phillips House
Budget Increase: \$13,376.55

Project: Administration
Budget Increase: \$5,126.02

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council authorizes the Mayor to submit the CARES Act Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan (2015-2020) and 2019 Annual Action Plan to HUD for approval and release of funds, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Court of Common Council designates the Mayor as the City's authorized representative and further authorizes him to take all steps necessary to implement the CARES Act Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan (2015-2020) and 2019 Annual Action Plan, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Mayor is authorized to accept such further sums as may be additionally awarded by the grantor under the same program, for the same authorized contract period or any immediate extension thereof, and for the same purposes, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all manner of other documents and to take such other actions as he and the Corporation Counsel may deem appropriate and in the best interests of the City in order to receive, contract and expend the above referenced grant funds, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Mayor is authorized in the event of any adjustments by HUD in the award(s) of CARES Act Funds in CDBG-CV, ESG-CV, and/or HOPWA-CV, from the amounts on which the herein authorized allocations are based, to take all steps necessary to further implement the terms of the Substantial Amendment, first by ensuring all planned public and non-public service municipal functions continue without resort to increased expenditure of general funds, and then by adjustment of awards proportionally, across all subrecipients within the subject program for the duration of the affected fiscal year or until all funds under each subrecipient contract, or any extension(s) thereof, have been expended in furtherance of the Substantial Amendment, and be it further

RESOLVED, That no person or entity shall be entitled to rely on, or otherwise claim any benefit by reason of this resolution should the Mayor fail to execute the aforementioned agreement or other documents, or to take any of the aforesaid actions, and be it further

RESOLVED, That all approvals and authorizations provided hereby are contingent upon, and only shall be effective on and by means of, the Mayor executing such agreements and documents, reallocating unexpended funds between existing line items

within a 25% variance according to the City's evolving priority needs and objectives, and taking such actions, all of which shall be, in form and substance, acceptable to the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel.



AGENDA ITEM #21

**Luke A. Bronin
Mayor**

June 13, 2020

Honorable Noel F. McGregor, Jr., Town and City Clerk
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: FY2021 Budget

Dear Mr. Clerk,

I have received and reviewed the Financial Resolutions adopted by the Council on June 10 – June 11, 2020 transmitted to me by the Town and City Clerk's Office on June 11, 2020. Pursuant to Chapter X, Section 5(c) and Chapter IV, Section 7(c) of the Hartford City Charter, the Mayor is authorized to approve or disapprove proposed reductions to items of expenditure in the submitted budget, and to approve, disapprove, or reduce new or increased items of expenditure. Accordingly, I am returning the resolutions without my signature and taking the following actions:

Proposed Reductions to Items of Expenditure:

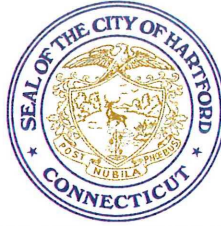
Reduction to Legal Services Expenditure

I approve the \$280,000 decrease to Legal Services Operations Programs – Litigation. I believe that the submitted budget appropriately funds legal services. However, the costs of legal services and litigation can vary widely from year to year, and I believe that the adjusted budget remains responsible, recognizing that any additional costs may be funded from the city's contingency funds.

Reduction to Hartford Police Department

I approve the reduction of \$1,000,000 to the Hartford Police Department. Our police department plays a vital role in responding to, preventing, and solving serious crime, and I believe that the overwhelming majority of our residents want a police force that can respond quickly to calls for service, and prioritize the prevention of violent crime, while also supporting community service officers and partnering with our community to address neighborhood public safety priorities. The adjusted budget will allow the Hartford Police Department to meet those responsibilities, while enabling additional investment in other vital areas of city service.

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AGENDA ITEM #21

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

I also support the reallocation of funds within the Police Department in order to fund ongoing training, including training in implicit bias, de-escalation, and conflict resolution, as well as additional community walk-beats and the unit dedicated to domestic violence. More generally, I believe that we must work together in the weeks and months ahead to begin laying the foundation for programs or partnerships that will allow for real-time response by trained, non-law-enforcement professionals to situations involving mental health, substance use or abuse, or certain interpersonal disputes.

Reduction to Contingency Fund

I disapprove the \$210,000 decrease to the contingency line item. We are facing a year of unprecedented economic and fiscal uncertainty. At barely more than one half of one percent of our total operating budget, the contingency fund is already a source of concern for our budget team. Facing the tremendous economic disruption and fiscal uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the prolonged shutdown, I do not believe that it is responsible, and I cannot in good conscience approve, any reduction in contingency funds.

Reduction to Capital Improvement Fund

I disapprove the \$400,000 reduction to the Pay Go Capex Reserve (Capital Improvement Program funds). The amount dedicated to capital investment in the FY2021 Recommended Budget is already significantly lower than called for in our five-year financial sustainability plan, and the City has many significant unmet capital needs. The City's largest capital expenditures planned for this year and in the years ahead are dedicated to the improvement and renovation of our neighborhood schools.

It is my understanding that Council voted to reduce funding for capital investment based on the hope that the city would secure additional capital funding from the state to offset this reduction. As always, I look forward to working side by side with the City Council and with our legislative delegation to secure as much capital funding as possible. To the extent that we are successful in securing additional capital funds, as I hope we will be, we should use those funds to increase investment in critical infrastructure needs throughout the city.

In addition, to rely on state capital investment to support new or increased operating expenses in other areas of the city budget would create an ongoing cost with a one-time revenue source, which is an unsustainable budgeting practice that we have worked very hard to avoid over the past five years.

Reductions to the Treasurer's Office

I disapprove both the \$6,000 reduction to the Treasurer's Office and the additional \$25,000 reduction to the Treasurer's Office.

Proposed Increases to Items of Expenditure:

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Increase to Health and Human Services for Senior Centers

I approve in full the increased expenditures of \$25,000 to Health and Human Services for the North End Senior Center, and the increase of \$25,000 to Health and Human Services for the South End Senior Center.

Increase to the Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation for After-School Recreation

I approve in full the increased expenditure of \$155,000 for the Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation for the purposes of supporting after-school and weekend recreational activities.

Increase to the Department of Public Works

I approve in full the increased expenditure of \$200,000 to fund additional Maintainer positions within the Department of Public Works.

Increase to the Hartford Deportation Fund

I approve in full the \$30,000 increase to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of funding the Hartford Deportation Fund, and the additional increase of \$70,000 for the same purpose, as these funds may serve as the local match for a grant to support this work.

Increase to Corporation Counsel for the Civilian Police Review Board

I approve in full the \$200,000 increase to the Corporation Counsel's office for the purpose of funding a full-time investigative support staff for the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB). I believe that the establishment of a permanent support staff will significantly strengthen the Civilian Police Review Board's ability to provide necessary oversight and accountability, and represents one important element of the reforms we must implement together.

Increase for the Police Accountability Review Board

I approve in full the \$75,000 increase to support the Police Accountability Review Board. This funding will ensure that the new Police Accountability Review Board, composed of a wide range of community stakeholders, has the administrative, professional, and consultant support necessary to support its work.

Increase to the Capital Improvement Projects fund for Hartford Decides

I approve in part the increase to the Capital Improvement Fund for the purpose of funding Hartford Decides, with a reduction to \$40,000.

Increase to the Department of Public Works for Equipment Stipend

I approve in full the \$5,000 increase to the Department of Public Works for the purpose of providing, subject to negotiation with the applicable union, an equipment stipend for certain public works employees.

Increase to the Hartford Police Department for the PAL Program

Over the past four years, the City of Hartford has moved away from funding individual non-profit organizations through line-item budget appropriations, and I do not believe that we should change or abandon that practice. I am confident, however, that we will be able to secure additional funding from other grant sources to support the PAL program. I am therefore disapproving this increase of \$50,000 to the Hartford Police Department to fund the PAL program.

Increase to Fund Stipends of the Civilian Police Review Board

The Charter of the City of Hartford Chapter 7, Section 1(h) prohibits members of any appointive board from receiving compensation for their services. Therefore, I am legally obligated to disapprove the allocation of \$50,000 for the purpose of funding of stipends for members of the Civilian Police Review Board.

Increase to City Council Civic Engagement

I am approving in part the increase to the City Council for the purpose of funding civic engagement initiatives, with a reduction to \$45,000.

Increase to the Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation for Early Learning Centers

As this increase was funded with a substantial decrease to our Capital Improvement budget, which I have disapproved, I must reduce this increased expenditure. I therefore approve this increase in part, reducing it to \$100,000, but note that I hope to dedicate a portion of the CARES Act supplementary Community Development Block Grant Funding to childcare and early childhood support, and that there may other be significant opportunities to secure additional federal, state, or philanthropic support for childcare and early childhood education support in response to disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Increase to a for Charter Revision Commission

I am approving in part the increase for the Charter Revision Commission, reducing the increase to \$40,000. Past charter revisions have varied significantly in the funding they have required, and the City of Hartford Charter calls for a Charter Revision Commission to be established by April of 2021, which is in the fourth quarter of the FY2021 fiscal year. I will work with the City Council to ensure that the Charter Revision Commission has the necessary support to fulfill its mission.

Increase to the Hartford Public Library for Translation Services

I support the goal of this new expenditure and approve it in part, reducing it to \$10,000. We will work with the Hartford Public Library to secure additional funding to supplement this new expenditure if necessary.

Increase to the Office of the Town and City Clerk

At this time, it is not clear to me why funding a deputy position within the office of the Town and City Clerk is either necessary or the most appropriate use of resources. Therefore, I am disapproving this \$150,000 increase. However, if it is demonstrated that such a position is necessary, I will work with the City Council to consider the possibility of submitting of a mid-year budgetary transfer.

Increase to the Department of Health and Human Services for Two Health Inspectors

I support Council's intention to add two additional health inspectors in the Department of Health and Human Services. As the appropriate funding for a single health inspector is \$80,000, including the cost of fringe benefits, I am approving this increase in part, reducing this increase to \$160,000.

Increase to the Department of Development Services for One Housing Inspector

I support Council's intention to add an additional housing inspector in the Department of Development Services. As the appropriate funding for a housing inspector position is less than \$100,000, I am approving this increase in part, reducing it to \$95,000.

Increase Related to Stipends for Certain Honorary City Positions

I am accepting this increase in part, reducing the increase to \$5,000.

Sincerely,



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA
MEETING OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
JUNE 22, 2020

AGENDA ITEM #21

Item #2a: Financial Resolution Dems #1 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to DECREASE \$260,000 from the General Fund under the Pay Outside Agencies and other Program – Contingency, Row 1674 line item 822006. **Mayor has disapproved whole amount.**

Item #2b: Financial Resolution WFP #3 – By a vote of 7-2, Council passed the resolution to DECREASE \$400,000 in the Debt Service Budget for Pay Go Capex Reserve (591047). **Mayor has disapproved whole amount.**

Item #2c: Financial Resolution Hartford Party #1 – By a vote of 7-2, Council passed the resolution to DECREASE \$6,000 in the Bank Charges line (535206) of the Custody of Funds budget of the Treasurer’s Office. **Mayor has disapproved whole amount.**

Item #2d: Financial Resolution WFP #2 – By a vote of 7-2, Council passed the resolution to DECREASE \$25,000 in the Bank Charges Line (5352206) of the custody of Funds Budget of the Treasurer’s Office. **Mayor has disapproved whole amount.**

Item #2e: Financial Resolution Dems #1 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$50,000 to the CIP line item 589271 for the Hartford Decides program. **Mayor has disapproved, but offers a partial reduction to \$40,000.**

Item #2f: Financial Resolution Dems #1 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$25,000 to the Hartford Police Department to support the PAL program. **Mayor has disapproved whole amount.**

Item #2g: Financial Resolution Dems #2 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$50,000 to the Office of Corporation Counsel for a stipend for the Civilian Police Review Board. **Mayor has disapproved whole amount.**

Item #2h: Financial Resolution Dems #1 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$60,000 to the Hartford City Council, Row 47 line item 112001 for Civic

Engagement and Cultural Affairs. **Mayor has disapproved, but offers a partial reduction to \$45,000.**

Item #2i: Financial Resolution Dems #2 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$155,000 to the Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation for after school recreation programs to be used to create such programs in the Hartford Public School’s community schools, in conjunction with the Board of Education, so recreation programs can be provided at Parker Memorial and Arroyo Recreation Center. **Mayor has disapproved, but offers a partial reduction to \$100,000.**

Item #2j: Financial Resolution Dems #1 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$75,000 to the Hartford City Council, Row 47 line item 112001 for the Charter Revision Commission. **Mayor has disapproved, but offers a partial reduction to \$40,000.**

Item #2k: Financial Resolution WFP #2 – By a vote of 7-2, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$25,000 to the Hartford Public Library (HPL), to go towards but not limited to acquisition of translation equipment, translation service of city communication community outreach (as expressed by the Mayor’s Office), and translation at HPL community meetings/events, as requested by respective residents of Hartford’s immigrant community whose primary language is not English. **Mayor has disapproved, but offers a partial reduction to \$10,000.**

Item #2l: Financial Resolution Dems #1 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$150,000 to the Town Clerk’s Office, Deputy Town Clerk, Row 72 line item 117001. **Mayor has disapproved whole amount.**

Item #2m: Financial Resolution Dems #2 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$200,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services for two health inspectors. **Mayor has disapproved, but offers a partial reduction to \$160,000.**

Item #2n: Financial Resolution Dems #2 – By a vote of 9-0, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$120,000 to the Department of Development Services, License and Inspections, to be used to add an additional housing inspector. **Mayor has disapproved, but offers a partial reduction to \$95,000.**

Item #2o: Financial Resolution Hartford Party #1 – By a vote of 7-2, Council passed the resolution to INCREASE \$6,000 in the Community Impact budget of the Non-Operating Department Expenditures budget which shall be used specifically to fund honorarium for the City’s appointed honorary positions created in Section 2-178 of our Ordinances. **Mayor has disapproved, but offers a partial reduction to \$5,000.**