



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **New Haven Board of Aldermen announces collective agenda for 2012-13** *Unanimously Develops Vision Statement and Legislative Policy and Governance Agenda.*

The Board of Aldermen announced today their Vision Statement and Legislative Policy & Governance Agenda for the 2012 – 2013 term. The members unanimously have announced their commitment to address the most pressing issues facing our city: Jobs, Youth, Fiscal Responsibility, and Public Safety, Crime & Violence. The Board's agenda calls for the creation and implementation of a Jobs Pipeline, a comprehensive plan to address the needs of our youth, strict accountability & support for community policing. Additionally, it is the Board's goal to provide outstanding constituent services, support economic development, and to be fiscally responsible – pursuing every opportunity for savings and accountability.

As first steps, the Board will be voting on Monday on the creation of a Jobs Pipeline Working Group, and on a resolution calling on the Civil Service Review Board to increase the points awarded to New Haven residents from 5 to 10.

The leadership of the Board released the following statement in conjunction with the announcement: "We are all in favor of a vibrant, safe and affordable place to work and live for all of the residents of our great city, and we look forward to working with everyone who is willing to make those ideals come to fruition."

Copies of the Vision Statement and Legislative Policy & Governance Agenda are attached the Board of Aldermen's Office of Legislative Services.

For more information please contact any of the members of the leadership of the Board of Aldermen including  
Alderman Jorge Perez at (203) 562-4373  
Alderwoman Jacqueline James at (203) 676-9478  
Alderman Alphonse Paolillo, Jr at (203) 623-2439  
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**Board of Alderpersons Vision Statement 2012-13**  
**Citywide Legislative Policy and Governance Agenda**

*We will pursue a citywide agenda to address the crises we face. The undersigned members of the New Haven Board of Alderpersons will strive to enact and support local policies that make New Haven a vibrant, safe, and affordable place to live for all of the city's residents. New development and economic growth are important to everyone who lives and works in New Haven. For the whole city to succeed and thrive, we must address the needs of everyone in the city—from those who struggle to make ends meet, to those who drive economic growth, and everyone in between. As we make progress on these items and as new items come to our attention from constituents, we may expand on the priorities below.*

**LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA**

- **JOB:** Expand access to good jobs in the public and private sector to all New Haven residents, with specific focus on under-resourced neighborhoods, through the creation and implementation of a jobs pipeline.
- **YOUTH:** Improve and increase the entire spectrum and quality of services and opportunities through a comprehensive youth agenda for the city.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY, CRIME & VIOLENCE:** Address crime and violence through strict mechanisms of accountability, support effective community policing strategies, and promote complete streets initiatives.

**GOVERNANCE AGENDA**

- **CONSTITUENT SERVICES/QUALITY OF LIFE:** As alderpersons, we will strive to improve the quality of life in New Haven neighborhoods in a proactive and timely fashion, enhancing and strengthening day-to-day constituent services in our wards, while seeking to involve more residents in the process of improving the livability of our communities.
- **COMMITMENT TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Before looking to taxpayers and city employee to solve any potential budget crisis we will:
  - Examine the proposed City budget for every opportunity to save taxpayer dollars
  - Prioritize community needs
  - Seek opportunities for additional revenue
  - Develop strategies for smart spending and responsible contracting (previous examples of the Board's success in this area include cost savings for energy purchases, copier contracts, and putting out to bid administration of health care plans)

**NEXT STEPS**

Beginning to solve the City's problems is urgent. Over the coming weeks, we will publicly be presenting specific proposals that are going to be based on thousands of conversations with our constituents and each other. Today we begin by announcing two initiatives:

1. The creation of a Jobs Pipeline Program Working Group with a ninety day deadline to develop a strategic plan.
2. A resolution requesting the Civil Service Board to increase the points awarded to qualifying New Haven residents from 5 to 10 points.

ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN CREATING A JOBS PIPELINE WORKING GROUP TO PROPOSE A STRATEGIC PLAN TO MEET THE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS OF THE YOUTH AND FAMILIES OF OUR CITY AND THE STAFFING NEEDS OF BUSINESSES.

WHEREAS: a city will succeed and thrive if economic and employment opportunities are extended to its residents; and

WHEREAS: good jobs assist and empower our families and our youth along with strengthening our businesses and our communities in our city; and

WHEREAS: businesses continually require skilled and dedicated employees to grow, prosper and thrive; and

WHEREAS: per the US Bureau of Labor Statistics calculation in the nation 25% of all youth ages 16-19 are unemployed, while for African American and Latino youth real unemployment exceeds 50%; and

WHEREAS: expanding access to good jobs in both the public and private sector to all New Haveners is a top priority for the New Haven Board of Aldermen; and

WHEREAS: growing and promoting existing New Haven businesses along with attracting additional business and economic opportunities is also a priority for the New Haven Board of Aldermen; and

WHEREAS: the Board of Aldermen supported prior proposed federal job legislation in April of 2010 and in October of 2011 in an effort to address unemployment at crisis levels in New Haven and the country; and

WHEREAS: President Obama has proposed an American Jobs Act to create jobs; and

WHEREAS: Congress has not acted on that jobs legislation; and

WHEREAS: the issue in New Haven is too urgent to wait for federal action; and

WHEREAS: working collaboratively with business owners, leaders, non profits, community leaders, labor and the entire city is paramount for shared success, growth and opportunity; and

WHEREAS: an effective and sustainable plan must be developed to provide for long term solutions to this problem through the development of a jobs pipeline that includes training the existing workforce for the current and future needs of the business community and providing opportunities at participating businesses; and

WHEREAS: in order to achieve this, a working group including but not limited to concerned citizens, willing members of the business community, leaders of local educational institutions, and public officials should be established to produce a strategic plan and recommend any other necessary legislative action required to create a jobs pipeline program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED THAT THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN authorizes the creation of a working group for the purpose of creating a jobs pipeline program and recommending any local enabling legislation deemed necessary to achieve this goal; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that such working group shall include (nineteen) 19 members including three (3) members selected by the Mayor and the following selected by leadership of the Board of Aldermen as follows: (3) members of the Board of Aldermen; four (4) members from the employer community such as the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, Yale University, Yale-New Haven Hospital and another general employer, two (2) members from the philanthropic community such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, two (2) members from the training/vocational community such as the Regional Workforce Alliance and Gateway Community and Technical College, one (1) member from the youth community, one (1) member of the labor community and (3) members from the non-governmental community to represent unemployed and underemployed workers from different parts of the city.

BE IT FURTHER Ordered that the working group shall produce a strategic plan within ninety days of the first meeting of the committee and make interim legislative recommendation as deemed appropriate. It shall also have the option to request more time from the Board of Aldermen if needed to complete its work; and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER ORDERED that upon receipt of the strategic plan the New Haven Board of Aldermen will review the plan and determine the next steps for the Jobs Pipeline Program.

RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN URGING THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO INCREASE THE RESIDENCY BONUS FROM FIVE POINTS TO TEN POINTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR CITY JOBS

WHEREAS: employable residents of the City of New Haven are suffering through the result of a historically high unemployment rate and underemployment rate; and

WHEREAS: as representatives of the City of New Haven it is appropriate and necessary to take all needed steps to increase the number of residents gainfully employed; and

WHEREAS: it is a core goal of the Board of Aldermen to use its influence to encourage the City of New Haven to use the apparatus and resources it controls for the best interests of its residents; and

WHEREAS: other municipalities have taken action to increase the likelihood of municipal jobs being filled by their local residents; and

WHEREAS: to that end Hartford, Bridgeport, and Waterbury have provided their residents with a five to ten point bonus on civil service examinations thus increasing their final scores and chances of being hired in their respective city; and

WHEREAS: Branford has given extra points to resident volunteer firefighters applying for paid positions and New Britain has placed the three New Britain residents with the highest scores on the job examination with the five applicants with the highest scores in the final selection pool; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Haven Board of Aldermen urges the Civil Service Commission of the City of New Haven to amend the civil services rules to increase the number of bonus points awarded to residents of the City of New Haven from five to ten points and to add such other amendments as appropriate to increase the number of city residents eligible to be selected for city jobs.