



# The Fifth District Voice

OFFICIAL 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ALDERS NEWS & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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**RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, LAWS FILED BY YOUR ALDERS**  
Page- 13



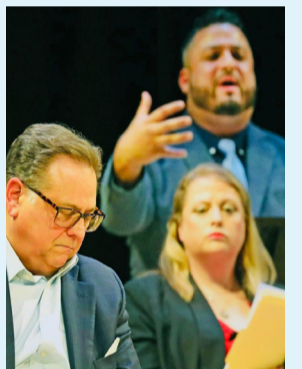
Neighborhood News: Bouley Manor, Downtown, East End, South End, Washington, Hillside & Willow Plaza Neighborhoods. Pages 2-9



5th District Aldermen came together to ensure residents in need received water.

### Water Main Break is Over, Future Emergency Preparedness is the focus

This emergency taking place only a few days after being sworn in shined a light on the need to ensure the alders, districts have clear emergency preparedness plans. (Page 15)



Alderman Rafael Feliciano Roman, at organizational meeting of Board of Alders

### The 16th Alder? Separation of Powers?

The fifth district alders led by Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman have pushed for common sense rule changes to the Board of Aldermen to allow for a more deliberative and transparent process including committees that meet on the same night. (Page 10)

## 5TH DISTRICT CAME ALIVE ON JAN 6TH, 2026

Alderwoman Martinez-McCarthy

The 5th District came alive the week of January 6, 2026, as residents celebrated Three Kings Day, a cherished holiday in Latino communities marking the visit of the Magi who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. With one of the highest concentrations of Latino residents in the city, the district hosted several vibrant events, including community gatherings, parades, and family-focused celebrations that brought neighbors together to honor faith, heritage, and culture.

“This tradition is one of extreme importance for our Latino community,” said Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman. He emphasized that events like these strengthen cultural identity, foster intergenerational connections, and showcase the rich traditions that make the 5th District unique.

# LOS TRES REYES THE THREE KINGS ARRIVE IN THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



(From L to R) Alderwoman Sandra Martinez-McCarthy, Hispanic Coalition Executive Director Vic Lopez, 75th District State Rep Geraldo Reyes JR, Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman, and Alderman Adrian Sanchez with youth at the annual 3 Kings Event.

Photo: CT DEMS

**“ This tradition is one of extreme importance for our Latino Community. - Alderman Feliciano-Roman**

From music and performances to festive treats and storytelling, the celebrations offered both longtime residents and newcomers an opportunity to participate in a meaningful cultural tradition. Find out more in our neighborhood sections on Pages 2-9.

## 5TH DISTRICT SHUT OUT OF MOST BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Legislative report compiled by Alderman Roman reveals lack of representation from 5th and 2nd Districts

The Fifth District Voice Staff

A newly released analysis of the City of Waterbury’s Boards and Commissions has uncovered a deeply troubling reality: the 5th Alder District is systematically shut out of nearly half of the city’s

governing bodies, raising urgent concerns about equity, accountability, and fair representation in local government.

According to the data, 10 out of the City’s 21 Boards and Commissions—nearly 50%—have zero

- continued on page 15

## CT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING RECAP

Alderman Feliciano-Roman

On January 10, 2026, I had the opportunity to participate in the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Newly Elected Officials Workshop, and it was truly a full and rewarding day of learning, reflection, and growth. I was proud to attend alongside Alder Kelly Zimmerman (Minority Leader), Alder Michael Grosso, and fellow 5th District Alder Adrian Sanchez. Opportunities like this reinforce how important it is for local leaders to continually strengthen their skills to

better serve our residents. CCM offers these workshops as a free resource to newly

elected officials across Connecticut, and the value was immediately clear. The

sessions were led by highly respected experts with deep experience in municipal

- continued on page 14



Alderman Sanchez (5th District), Alderman Grosso (1st District), Alderman Feliciano-Roman (5th District), and Alderwoman Zimmerman attending the CCM Newly Elected Officials Training

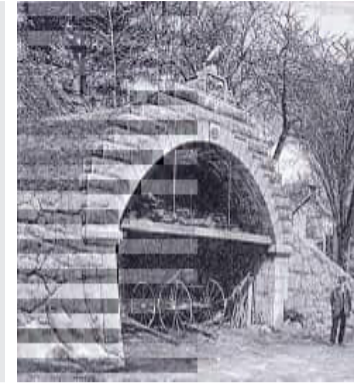
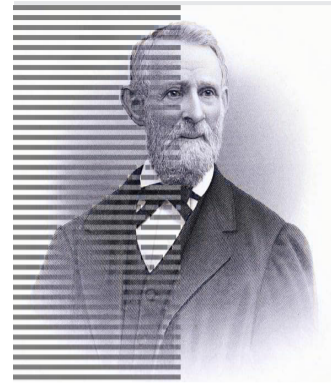
Photo: CCM

The Fifth District Voice Staff

The 5th District Alders have taken action to elevate the visibility and recognition of one of Waterbury's important historic assets: the Hobart Welton Carriage Shed, located at the corner of Wolcott Road and Manor Avenue. Through a formal order, the Board of Aldermen has directed that the City of Waterbury design, procure, and install a historic landmark street sign identifying the carriage shed as a designated historic site and acknowledging its significance to the city's history.



Hobart Victory Welton Carriage Shed on Wolcott Road in Waterbury, CT



## HOBART VICTORY WELTON CARRAIGE SHED 5TH DISTRICT ALDERS SEEK LOCAL VISIBILITY

not only preserves this history but also ensures residents, visitors, and future generations understand the importance of this site within the broader story of Waterbury.

In addition to recognizing the site itself, the Board of Aldermen has formally acknowledged the Bouley Manor Neighborhood Association for its ongoing dedication to the preservation and stewardship of the Hobart Welton Carriage Shed. Their advocacy and care have played a

vital role in protecting this landmark and keeping local history alive at the neighborhood level.

The 5th District Alders emphasized that historic preservation begins locally, with communities that value and protect their shared heritage. This action represents a meaningful step toward honoring Waterbury's past while strengthening neighborhood pride and cultural awareness across the city.

The Hobart Welton Carriage Shed stands as a tangible reminder of Waterbury's past, reflecting the city's development, craftsmanship, and neighborhood heritage. By installing a historic landmark sign, the City

## LA BORICHINA RESTURANT IS A VIRAL SENSATION HAVE YOU TRIED IT?

The Fifth District Voice Staff

In the heart of Waterbury's Bouley Manor neighborhood, BoriChina Restaurant is redefining local dining with bold Puerto Rican-Chinese fusion cuisine. Located in a former Dunkin' Donuts building, this Waterbury establishment has gained a large

nationwide social media following, drawing attention far beyond the city. BoriChina's menu pays homage to a rich cultural fusion that is a staple of Puerto Rican and Chinese communities on the island and throughout the diaspora.

Owned by Patricia Law Li, a 2025 Puerto Rican Day Parade and Festival Cultural Ambassador

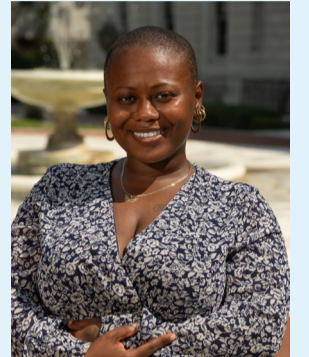
Honoree and a Human Rights Commissioner, BoriChina represents more than great food—it reflects culture, history, and pride. Bouley Manor residents are encouraged to support this vibrant neighborhood business and share the experience with family and friends.



La Borichina (Chinese + Puerto Rican Fusion) Restaurant located on Meriden Road in Waterbury. The establishment isn't only a viral sensation however it's also a great food establishment in the heart of Bouley Manor.

## BOULEY MANOR BEAT

Monthly Highlights and Business Celebrations of Individuals, Groups in the Bouley Manor Neighborhood.



### Ronae Mason-Craig Re-appointed to Litter and Beautification

Bouley Resident Ronae Mason-Craig has been reappointed to the Litter and Beautification Commission for another term. Ronae is not only a commissioner but has served as the Chairwoman for the past several months, working to modernize and transform the commission for the better. The 5th District Alders proudly support her re-appointment.



### Patricia Law Li Re-appointed to Human Rights Commission

The 5th District proudly congratulates Patricia Law Li on her reappointment to the Waterbury Human Rights Commission. Patricia's continued service reflects her deep commitment to equity, dignity, and inclusion for all residents of our city. As a longtime advocate for civil and human rights, she brings both lived experience and thoughtful leadership to the commission's important work.

Send your Bouley Manor Beat email it to:  
aldermanfelicianoroman@waterburyct.org



### NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING

2nd Thursday of the Month  
6:30 pm at Chase School

### NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

Chase Elementary School  
40 Woodtick Rd, Waterbury, CT 06705

- President:** Sharon Rouleau
- Email:** roul1960@att.net
- Phone:** (203)910-0230
- Meeting info:** 2nd Thursday of the month (no meetings in July or August)
- Location & Time:** Chase Elementary School Cafeteria at 6:30PM
- Membership Dues:** \$10.00 individual, \$15.00 family

**Social Media:** Bouley Manor Neighborhood Association | Facebook



**2026 GREATER WATERBURY PUERTO RICAN WEEKEND**  
SEPT 18<sup>TH</sup> & SEPT 19<sup>TH</sup>

**2026 PARADE & FESTIVAL THEME**  
BORICUA TAÍNOS WATERBURY CT  
#BORICUATAÍNOS #WATERBURYTAÍNO

**2026 TAÍNOBORICUA AGENDA**

- DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED - AUGUST 2026**  
THE RIVERA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER  
2026 LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | TICKETS \$30.00
- FRIDAY SEP 18, 2026**  
GREATER WATERBURY PUERTO RICAN DAY  
4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BORIFEST - DAY 1  
LIBRARY PARK, 267 GRAND STREET, WATERBURY, CT 06702  
3:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
PRODUCED BY GW PR PARADE & FEST & RICHIE RICH ENT / MAIN DATE SAT SEPT 18, 2026
- SATURDAY SEPT 19, 2026**  
GREATER WATERBURY PUERTO RICAN PARADE & FESTIVAL  
4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PUERTO RICAY DAY PARADE - "BORICUA TAÍNO"  
KICK-OFF 11:00 AM EAST MAIN STREET TO DOWNTOWN AND ENDS AT LIBRARY PARK
- SATURDAY SEP 19, 2026**  
GREATER WATERBURY PUERTO RICAN DAY  
4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BORIFEST - DAY 2  
LIBRARY PARK, 267 GRAND STREET, WATERBURY, CT 06702  
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
PRODUCED BY GW PR PARADE & FEST & RICHIE RICH ENT / MAIN DATE SUN SEPT 20, 2026
- SATURDAY SEPT 19, 2026**  
THE COMMISSIONERS LOUNGE PRESENTS:  
3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WHITE PARTY: OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY  
350 FAIRFILED AVENUE, WATERBURY CT  
9:00 PM | TICKETS \$20 PP / \$10 FOR MEMBERS

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS**  
WANT TO SPONSOR 2026 - EMAIL WATERBURYPRPARADE@GMAIL.COM

**PRESENTING SPONSORS:** COGUI & STAGE, FLAMBOYANT, ISLA, LEAD, PriceRite, DRESSLER LAW, PALANTE, PALACE THEATRE

**LATON SPONSORS:** 8+8, B.L.A.C, Thomaston Savings Bank, PALANTE

**COMMUNITY SPONSORS:** A United Way, Jeep, EYEWITNESS NEWS, PHYCIC, VIVO! WATERBURY, BCC TV, RR

**MEDIA PARTNERS:** EYEWITNESS NEWS, PHYCIC, VIVO! WATERBURY, BCC TV, RR

FUNDING FOR THIS EVENT HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATURE AND IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF THE ARTS.  
FLYER DESIGNED BY: RAFAEL FELICIANO-ROMAN, RAFAELSERVICES413@GMAIL.COM

Greater Waterbury Puerto Rican Day Parade & Festival 2026

Photo: GWPRPF

## Largest Latino Festival in Greater Waterbury Returns in September!

The Puerto Rican Day Parade and Festival is returning to Downtown Waterbury for its Fourth Annual celebration, bringing culture, pride, and community back to

the Brass City. Festivities will kick off in August 2026 with a special Honoree Announcement and a fundraiser for the Rivera Memorial Foundation at its Annual Wine Tasting Event at the Fire House (dates TBA). The Festival follows from 12–8 p.m. with music, cultural artists, a youth zone, food, and family fun.

### LEAD CT - GREATER WATERBURY HOSTS 3 KINGS

CT LEAD in Downtown Waterbury hosted its first-ever Three Kings Celebration, welcoming hundreds of families for a joyful day of culture and tradition. Attending were Alderman Kelly Zimmerman, Alders Iris Sanchez and Rafael Feliciano-Roman, and State Rep. Geraldo Reyes.

This year expands to a two-day celebration. Activities begin Friday, September 18, from 4–8 p.m. at Library Park. On Saturday, September 18, Parade steps off at 11 a.m. Organizers also thanked Mayor Paul Pernerewski and the Office of the Mayor for their continued support and collaboration.



CT LEAD CT & Greater Waterbury Staff alongside Waterbury Alders Kelly Zimmerman, Rafael Feliciano-Roman, State Rep. Geraldo Reyes Jr., & Alder Adrian Sanchez.

Photo: CT LEAD

## SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY NOTES & NEWS

The Fifth District Voices Staff

This winter, Silas Bronson Library offers a variety of engaging programs for the community. In January, local

gallery will feature Clyde Watson, a self-taught artist from Jamaica, whose work reflects his passion for art and serves as a source of inspiration and upliftment. On Thursday, January 29 at 6:00

Students are invited to participate in the 51st Annual Poetry Contest, with submissions open February 1 through March 19, 2026. The contest is open to all Waterbury students from Kindergarten through 12th grade, with one entry per student. Awards will be presented on Thursday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m. This year's themes include: "Your Favorite Animal," "If I had three wishes," and writing a limerick. Entry forms and rules will be available in January at bronsonlibrary.org/kids and at the library.

From art and chocolate to poetry, the Silas Bronson Library is the place to explore, create, and celebrate community this winter. **Main Library**  
267 Grand Street  
Waterbury, CT 06702



artist Linhchi Kompare, originally from Vietnam, will display her artwork on the gallery wall and display cases, showcasing her paintings and drawings created in her free time. In February, the

p.m., join us in the Main Reading Room for Fascia's Chocolates, a Waterbury tradition for over 60 years. Learn how chocolate goes from bean to bar and enjoy a delicious sample along the way.



## Honoring Dr. King's Legacy

Fifth District Voices Staff

The NAACP, Not Just Us, and Black Women's United hosted a powerful and beautiful event in Waterbury honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. While focused on

his life and message, there were indirect reflections on today's civil rights struggles. Attending were Aldermen Rafael Feliciano-Roman, Sean Mosley, Jeff Hunter, Blake, and Weaver, standing in unity and remembrance.



NAACP MLK Event at Waterbury City Hall January 19, 2026

Photo: Alder Feliciano-Roman

SEVEN ANGELS THEATRE

NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TAKES THE HELM OF HISTORIC THEATRE

The Fifth District Voice Staff

The East End is marking a significant cultural milestone as the historic, award-winning Seven Angels Theatre announces a change in leadership. After more than three decades, founder Semina DeLaurentis has retired. At the same time, the theatre has announced the hiring of Constantine Pappas. Since its founding, Seven Angels Theatre has served as a cultural anchor for Waterbury, presenting professional theatre of the highest caliber

while remaining deeply engaged with the local community. Under Semina DeLaurentis' leadership, the theatre grew into one of Connecticut's most respected performing arts institutions, known for bold productions, arts education, and youth engagement. Constantine Pappas, a seasoned performer whose career spans stages across the United States and Europe. Pappas appeared in over 600 performances of the North American tour of "The Phantom of the



Seven Angels Theater Artistic Director Constantine Pappas

Photo: Constantine's Instagram

Opera," including 41 performances as Raoul. His Broadway credits include "Harmony: A New Musical," with music and lyrics by Barry

Manilow and Bruce Sussman. Pappas has also played a key role at Seven Angels Theatre beyond the stage. He has worked in marketing, served as

“ We are so excited to bring a new energy to Seven Angels Theatre. We've got magic to do!

- Constantine Pappas, Seven Angels

Director of the Seven Angels High School Halo Awards, and this year hosted all four nights of the program while preparing nominee presentations. Over the past four years, he has helped grow the Halo Awards into the largest high school theatre awards program in Connecticut, with participation from over 100 schools. In addition to his artistic

achievements, Pappas brings extensive media and marketing experience through collaborations with Barnum Financial Group, Dance Molinari, and Edge Sound Research. This leadership transition honors a legendary past while embracing a dynamic future for one of Waterbury's most treasured cultural institutions.

GUACADO MEXICAN GRILL BRINGS HALAL TEX-MEX TO WATERBURY'S EAST END

The Fifth District Voice Staff

The East End of Waterbury has a fresh and exciting addition to its dining scene! Guacado Mexican Grill, serving halal Mexican food stacked with bold flavor and made fresh to order, officially opened its doors at 1405 E Main Street, in the former

location of MoFonGO, which closed earlier this year. The restaurant held its grand opening on January 11, 2026, drawing attention from food lovers across the city eager to try this innovative take on Tex-Mex cuisine.

Offering fast, flavorful, and freshly prepared meals, Guacado Mexican

Grill aims to provide a dining experience that is both convenient and delicious. From tacos and burritos to bowls and specialty items, every dish is crafted with quality ingredients and a focus on taste. Its halal menu makes it accessible to a wider community, ensuring that everyone can enjoy authentic

Mexican flavors without compromise.

The 5th District Aldermen extend their congratulations to the owners and staff of Guacado Mexican Grill on this exciting new venture. They recognize the importance of supporting small businesses that invest in our neighborhoods and

bring vibrancy to our community. Residents are encouraged to visit, enjoy a meal, and experience what everyone is talking about. Guacado is not just a restaurant—it's a community gathering spot that celebrates bold flavors, fresh ingredients, and the spirit of Waterbury's East End.

With this new establishment, the East End continues to grow as a destination for diverse dining and cultural experiences, strengthening the neighborhood and supporting local entrepreneurs. Guacado Mexican Grill is a welcome addition and a reason to explore all that Waterbury has to offer.



1405 E Main St, Waterbury, CT 06705  
Open: Monday - Sunday  
11:00 am - 12:00 am  
Phone: (203) 756-3178  
guacadomexicangrill@gmail.com



Customers attend opening day at Guacado Mexican Grill at 1405 East Main Street, Waterbury, CT on January 11, 2026 during their Grand Opening.

Photo: Zameer Khaliq New England Urdu Time

Flyer for the Inaugural 75th and 5th District 3 Kings Day Celebration in the Hillside Neighborhood Co-hosted by the State Rep & Aldermen of the 5th District.

## HILLSIDE RESIDENTS 3 KINGS TRADITIONS PROTECTED

AFTER LOCAL NON PROFIT ABRUPTLY BACKED OUT ALDERS & STATE REP STEPPED IN TO SUPPORT

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

When three buildings in the 5th District—15 Bishop Street, 79 Linden Street, and 173 Grover Street—lost support from a local nonprofit for their annual Three Kings Day celebrations, the 5th District Aldermen and State Representative Geraldo Reyes stepped in to ensure the tradition continued.

Pa'lante, Siempre Pa'lante hosted two events at two buildings and provided gifts to the third, keeping this important cultural tradition alive for families and youth. Celebrated every January 6th, Three Kings Day (Día de los Reyes Magos) honors the visit of the Three Wise Men, emphasizing faith, generosity, family, and hope.

“This celebration is about more than gifts,” said Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman. “It’s about affirming our culture, passing traditions to our children, and showing families that their heritage and joy matter. We are proud to ensure this tradition continues for generations to come.”

State Rep Geraldo Reyes added, “These events remind us that community, culture, and family



are at the heart of everything we do. Supporting our traditions is how we invest in our children and honor our roots.”

Special thanks to sponsors: Afro Caribbean Cultural Center, Greater Waterbury Puerto Rican Day Parade & Festival, Bones of A Angel, HealSelf, New Opportunity Inc, Jack Paul Noujaim Foundation, and the CT Taíno Learning Community.



## FOOD UNIVERSE MARKETPLACE GOES VIRAL OVER HOT MEALS



Food Universe Marketplace, which opened in October 2025, has become a Hillside neighborhood favorite by expanding access to fresh produce and quality groceries. Now it’s gone viral for its deli’s hot meals, featuring Dominican favorites like rice and beans, steak and onions, and more. Visit Monday–Sunday at 96 Grove St., Waterbury, CT 06710 for fresh food and flavorful dishes.



## Hayden Homestead Park Set for Restoration in 2026

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

Hayden Homestead Park, a cherished green space in Waterbury, is set to undergo restoration and revitalization in 2026, bringing renewed life to this historic neighborhood asset. Originally donated to the City to preserve open space for public use, the park has long served as a quiet refuge for families, seniors, and residents seeking connection with nature.

Planned improvements will focus on enhancing accessibility, safety, and overall usability, including new walkways, landscaping, seating areas, and community-friendly amenities. The three newly elected 5th District Aldermen recently voted in favor of the final approvals at the Board of Aldermen, voicing strong support for these long-awaited renovations.

This investment reflects the City’s commitment to



strengthening public parks and improving quality of life across neighborhoods. Once completed, Hayden Homestead Park will continue its legacy as a place for relaxation, play, and community connection for generations to come.

## Hispanic Coalition Hosts 20th Annual Three Kings Day

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

Three Kings Day holds deep meaning across Caribbean culture, symbolizing faith, generosity, and the joy of community. Celebrated on January 6, it honors the Three Wise Men and reminds us of the importance of tradition, family, and coming together across generations.

That spirit was alive at the Hispanic Coalition's 20th Annual Three Kings Day Community Celebration, made even more special by the presence of members of the Board of Aldermen—Jeff Hunter, Sean Mosley, Drewery, Sandra Martinez-McCarthy, Adrian Sanchez, and Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman.

It was uplifting to see city leaders show up, celebrate, and stand alongside the community. For Alderman Feliciano-Roman, this was one of three community events attended that day, a powerful reminder that leadership starts with presence. Showing up matters. Being seen, listening, and sharing space with residents builds trust and honors the cultures that make our city strong.

Events like this are more than celebrations—they affirm that our traditions are valued and our communities are supported. This is what it looks like when leaders truly serve.



The Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury 2026 - 20th Anniversary 3 Kings Day Celebration. Various photos of the Alders and community members enjoy the festivities of the events.



## Puerto Rican Historical Cultural District Formed

*Cultural District to be governed by the South End Neighborhood Association.*

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

The City of Waterbury is taking a historic step toward cultural recognition with the creation of its first-ever Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural District, an initiative that will be governed by the South End Neighborhood Association. The effort was introduced by Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman (5th District), who filed an official order directing the City to formally establish and recognize Puerto Rican historic and cultural assets across key neighborhoods. The proposed cultural district will encompass major landmarks and institutions that reflect the deep roots and contributions of Puerto Ricans in Waterbury. These include the Roberto Clemente Bridge, the 65th Infantry Bridge, the South End Recreation Center, St. Ann's/All Saints Church, the former St. Cecilia's Church, the former Sacred Heart Church, and the Roberto Clemente Dual Language School, among others. The district boundaries will cover the South End, Downtown, Baldwin Street, and Willow Street areas, highlighting walkable and accessible routes and incorporating public infrastructure and amenities into a cohesive cultural corridor. As part of the order, the City will also be required to hold a public hearing to allow residents and stakeholders to learn about the



proposed cultural district, understand its goals, and provide community input. This step ensures that the district is shaped not only by policy, but by the voices of the people whose history and culture it represents. "This is about honoring our history, our resilience, and our contributions to Waterbury," said Alderman Feliciano-Roman. "Puerto Ricans helped build this city. Our culture deserves permanent recognition, visibility, and preservation for future generations." The Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural District is intended to celebrate cultural identity, promote heritage tourism, strengthen neighborhood pride, and ensure that Puerto Rican history remains a visible and valued part of Waterbury's civic and cultural landscape for decades to come.



## South End Neighborhood Association Meeting

**JANUARY 21ST, 2026 6:00PM**

**2026 Just started! Let's start having important conversations about the present and future of our community!**

**For more information 203-527-6385**

**233 Mill St. Waterbury, CT 06706 PURA VIDA**



## Fireworks return to the 4th of July!

The 5th District Aldermen proudly supported and voted for a new five-year contract securing Waterbury's annual fireworks on July 4th atop Holy Land USA. The agreement guarantees a consistent Independence Day celebration through 2031. This year, the fireworks will take place on Saturday, July 4, 2026, preserving a beloved city tradition.



## WASHINGTON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REVIVAL SPRING 26!

Stephen Rice long time Washington Park Neighborhood Member has confirmed that the Washington Park Neighborhood Association will be reactivating in the Spring of 2026. The group will be seeking members.



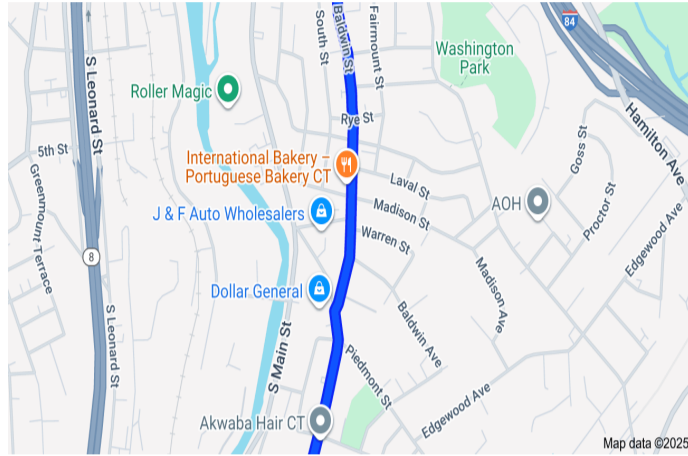
Meetings will most likely occur at Washington Park House or Saint Francis Xavier Parish Hall. The 5th District Alders will update neighborhood members and will be present to support. We look forward to this welcomed news.

## Baldwin Street Sidewalk and Street Repair

# 5th District Alders Seek Updates to Streets & Sidewalks

The Fifth District Voice Staff

The 5th District Aldermen have taken a strong step toward addressing the long-standing concerns of Baldwin Street residents by filing a formal request with the Department of Public Works (DPW) for a comprehensive written report on the street's condition and future plans. The request, co-sponsored by Alderwoman Sandra Martinez-McCarthy and Alderman Adrian Sanchez, and led by Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman, directs DPW to deliver a full Capital Improvement and Infrastructure Status Report detailing past,



Google Map Image of Baldwin Street in Waterbury, CT a main artery of traffic in the heart of the fifth district. A major pain point in need of repair.

current, and planned work. The report will include a complete timeline of gas line, utility, and road work, a full cost estimate for complete reconstruction including roadway, curbs, sidewalks, and subsurface, records of all patching and temporary repairs over the past 10 years, and an assessment of Baldwin Street's priority

“Residents deserve clarity on what has been done, what it will take to fix the street properly, and how soon it will happen.”  
- Alderwoman Martinez-McCarthy

for the City's Capital Improvement Plan, including funding options and projected timelines. “This is about accountability and respect for residents who have lived with unsafe and deteriorating road conditions for far too long,” said Alderman Feliciano-Roman. “Baldwin Street has been patched repeatedly but never fully repaired. Our community deserves answers and a plan for permanent reconstruction.” Alderwoman Martinez-McCarthy added,

“Residents deserve clarity on what has been done, what it will take to fix the street properly, and how soon it will happen.” Alderman Sanchez noted, “This is about breaking the cycle of temporary fixes and finally planning a permanent rebuild that prioritizes safety, quality, and neighborhood pride.” The 5th District Aldermen will continue working to ensure that Baldwin Street receives the investment and attention it has long been promised, keeping residents informed every step of the way.

## Honoring Faith and History: 5th District Leaders Support Holy Land USA

Fifth District Voice Staff

High above the city, overlooking the South End and rooted in the heart of the Washington Hill neighborhood, Holy Land USA remains one of Waterbury's most powerful and recognizable landmarks. With the development of a new Stations of the Cross walking trail, the site is

once again becoming a place of reflection, community pride, and renewed purpose. For Alderman Adrian Sanchez, the significance of Holy Land USA is deeply personal. The towering cross that has watched over generations of Waterbury families is not just a skyline fixture — it is a symbol he carries with him every day. Sanchez has the Holy Land cross tattooed on his

arm, a permanent reminder of faith, heritage, and the enduring importance of this sacred place. “This cross isn't just something you see from afar,” Sanchez shared. “For many of us who grew up here, it's part of our story. It represents hope, resilience, and a deep spiritual connection that transcends generations.” The new Stations of the

All three Aldermen representing Waterbury's 5th District have expressed strong support for this endeavor, recognizing Holy Land USA as both a spiritual landmark and a vital community asset. Together, they commend the Holy Land USA Board of Directors for their leadership, vision, and commitment to stewarding this historic site with care and respect. “The work being done here is about honoring the past while creating something lasting for the future,” said Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman. “Holy Land USA belongs to the people of Waterbury. This trail is a gift — to residents, to visitors, and to anyone seeking a moment of peace.”



Three crosses at Holy Land USA at the top of Washington Hill Neighborhood.

Photo: Cathryn J. Prince

As progress continues, the 5th District Aldermen offer their congratulations and ongoing support to the Board of Directors and all those involved in bringing this project to life. With renewed energy and community backing, Holy Land USA is once again poised to serve as a place of faith, reflection, and shared identity — standing watch over Waterbury, just as it always has.

**The Success of Mobile Police Command**

The 5th District Alders fully support the Administration and Police Department's coordinated efforts at Willow Plaza using the Mobile Police Command. Alders back the return of neighborhood



precincts and are exploring a detailed report on costs for multiple mobile units in high-need areas. Partnering with landlords on empty storefronts for pop-up precincts could provide enhanced community safety at little to no cost to the city.



**Community Partnerships Matter Too!**

Local businesses, nonprofits, and neighborhood groups in Willow Plaza are working together with the city to improve safety and strengthen our community. We as 5th District Alders applaud these efforts and will formally recognize them in 2026 for their vital contributions to neighborhood security and wellbeing.

**WILLOW STREET SHE-RO**

**BONE OF A ANGEL: WATERBURY'S QUIET COMMUNITY CHAMPION**

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

In Waterbury, Bone of A Angel has become a trusted and generous presence in the community—giving back quietly but meaningfully to neighbors in need. Led by founder Agnes White, this grassroots nonprofit operates 100% on volunteer effort and the generous donations of others. For years, Bone of A Angel has focused on the Willow Plaza neighborhood as a hub for community support, ensuring families and youth have access to essential items and moments of joy.



Agnes White (Miss Keisha) Founder and Leader of Bones of A Angel a Statewide Organization that gives back. Photo: Bones FB

Through giveaways collaborations with the Jack Paul Noujaim Foundation, the organization distributes clothing, essentials, and

“Miss Keisha & Bones are here and have been here when no one was.”  
- Willow Street Formerly Housed Resident

seasonal gifts directly to residents. All of this is done without fanfare, letting the work speak for itself and ensuring support reaches those who need it most. “What makes Bone of A Angel extraordinary is that Miss Keisha & Bones are here and have been here when no one was,” said a former Willow Street resident. “They show up, they care, and they deliver for our families when it matters most.”

Agnes White's dedication demonstrates the power of compassion-driven, grassroots service. Bone of A Angel reminds Waterbury that community support isn't just about resources—it's about presence, consistency, and heart. Through quiet but meaningful action, this nonprofit continues to strengthen neighborhoods, uplift families, and prove that giving back makes a lasting difference.

**WILLOW-HILLSIDE-GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE IS BORN**

**D.M. LIVINGSTON LEADS THE CHARGE TO CHANGE THE MEDIA AND NEIGHBORHOOD LANDSCAPES**

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

D.M. Livingston, founder of the one-man Waterbury Times Newspaper, is taking his dedication to Waterbury to a new level with the creation of the Willow-Hillside-Grove Neighborhood Alliance. Known for his social media prowess, sports

analysis, and short-form content, Livingston has built a strong local presence and a unique voice in the city's media landscape. While his commentary—at times critical of the length of Aldermen meetings—has sparked conversation, it reflects his passion for transparency and engagement in his community. With the new Neighborhood Alliance, Livingston is channeling that energy into direct, positive action for the area he calls home. From organizing local initiatives to amplifying resident concerns and fostering stronger connections, he aims to create a more informed and engaged

neighborhood. The 5th District Aldermen have welcomed Livingston's efforts, offering their support and confirming their availability as a partner, as a member of the free press, and as a new member of the Neighborhood Alliance. His commitment shows that a combination of

journalism, advocacy, and love for the community can drive meaningful change. The Willow-Hillside-Grove Neighborhood Alliance represents a new chapter for the neighborhood, and Livingston's energy, persistence, and passion promise to make a lasting impact on the residents and the city at large.



The Waterbury Times & Willow-Hillside-Grove Alliance Founder Doug M. Livingston in Waterbury City Hall.

Photo: The Waterbury Times

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*  
**Neighborhood Association**

**Information:**  
**Willow-Hillside-Grove Alliance**  
President - Doug Livingston  
Cell: (203)788-0039  
E-Mail: Dmlivingston@thewaterburytimes.com  
Meeting Location: Waterbury Community Relations Office, 70 Pine Street  
When: Last Friday of Every Month  
Meeting Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm  
Virtual link available via The Waterbury Times



Alders Rafael Feliciano-Roman, Sandra Martinez-McCarthy and Adrian Sanchez are out in the community with the people. If you'd like for us to attend your event contact us at the information on the last page.



Fifth District Aldermen attend various community events including Inaguration Day, the Kennedy High School Band Pasta Fundraiser, the MLK Day Event, Three Kings Day events and water main break give aways.



## Tax Abatements & Welton Street Development

5<sup>th</sup> District Alders

The 5th District Aldermen collectively support increasing low-income housing stock in Waterbury, but believe it must be done equitably and citywide, not through cherry-picked developments. While the administration has focused on small pockets of projects, the City already has

“Waterbury’s own Affordable Housing Plan notes that Inclusionary Zoning and Incentive Zoning—authorized under state law—are not currently part of local regulations.”

zoning tools in RH, RO, and RM districts that can with zoning rule changes require affordability across all major developments.

Waterbury’s own Affordable Housing Plan notes that Inclusionary Zoning and Incentive

Zoning—authorized under state law—are not currently part of local regulations. These tools would allow required affordable set-asides, density bonuses, and housing trust funds. The 5th District Aldermen will file to make these standards citywide policy.

They also stress responsible use of tax abatements, favoring shorter terms (10–11 years), requiring developers to appear before the Board, and ensuring existing properties meet code and safety standards before incentives are granted.

## 2.5 Hour Meeting vs. 1/2 Hour Meeting? The 7 Hour Myth

5<sup>th</sup> District Alders

There has been ongoing criticism of the length of Board of Aldermen meetings, with some claiming that sessions stretching several hours are unnecessary and inefficient. In reality, what often appears as one long meeting is actually three separate meetings occurring on the same evening: the Full Board, the Finance Committee, and the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, each lasting 1.5–2 hours. This structure allows for

“Prior to the election of the newly elected members, including the three from the 5th District, these committees were collectively meeting for only about 2 hours total, roughly 40 minutes per meeting. That means decisions affecting millions of taxpayer dollars were being made with minimal discussion, little oversight, and almost no deliberation.”

thoughtful discussion, careful deliberation, and proper oversight of city business.

Before the election of the new 5th District members, these committees collectively met for only about 40 minutes

each, meaning decisions affecting millions in taxpayer dollars were made with minimal review, little discussion, and almost no oversight. This is insufficient to ensure accountability, fairness, and responsible governance.

As 5th District Aldermen, we are committed to asking questions, demanding accountability, and ensuring public resources are managed responsibly, even when discussions get challenging or testy. Leadership begins with presence. We will continue to show up, listen, and advocate relentlessly for the residents of the 5th District and the City of Waterbury, ensuring their voices are heard and that government operates with transparency, fairness, and integrity.



5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ALDERMAN

*Allow me to reintroduce myself..*  
*My priorities are always, “Putting People First”*

RAFAEL FELICIANO-ROMAN

I get passionate because I see how the 5th District—our residents, neighborhoods, and voices—are too often left out, boxed out, and excluded from critical decisions in this city. Our district is underrepresented on boards and commissions and too often sidelined in discussions that directly impact our homes, streets, and quality of life. I push back because government should be inclusive, transparent, and accountable, not rushed through last-minute votes that leave communities behind.

Questions, debate, and disagreement should never be treated as shameful—they are the foundation of strong, responsible governance.

I speak from personal and professional experience. I came home to Waterbury and helped found the Afro-Caribbean Cultural Center, as well as the Puerto Rican Day Parade and Festival, initiatives that celebrate and uplift our community. I also attempted

to join boards, commissions, and even the Charter Revision Commission, only to witness firsthand the dysfunction and lack of transparency in the appointment process. Good ideas, dedication, and community commitment are often ignored if you are not already inside the system.

I have served as an elected official before,



and I now balance multiple responsibilities while serving my district. I run the Cultural Center, managing programs, outreach, and community partnerships, and I work full-time as Manager of Customer Success and Billing for a cancer research company. I know what it means to work hard, prioritize, and deliver results for people, and I bring that same energy to my role as Alder.

My political mentors inspire how I lead: from local champions like Hector Riollano,

Marty Skully, Jim Maloney, and Jahana Hayes, my mom and Abuelita to Puerto Rican independence leader Pedro Albizu Campos, and national figures like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Barack Obama. They taught me that public service is about courage, vision, and never forgetting the people you represent.

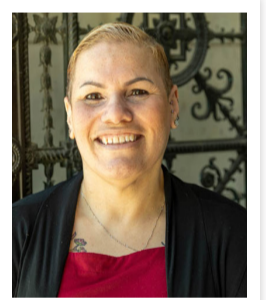
Putting people first means ensuring every voice is heard, every decision is thoughtful, and no community is left behind.

It means questioning the status quo, demanding accountability, and challenging processes that fail our residents. I will continue to fight for a Board that deliberates responsibly, values all voices, and puts the people of the 5th District first—always.

5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ALDERWOMAN

*I will not be silenced! I will be respected!*  
*After 8 Years I am ready to fight like it’s Day One.*

Sandra Martinez-McCarthy

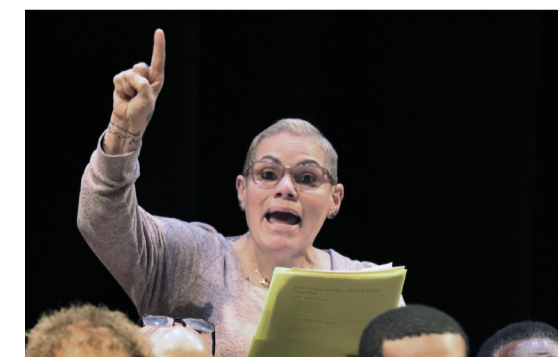


My name is Sandra Martinez-McCarthy, and I am proud to serve as Alderwoman for Waterbury’s 5th District. I am also a paralegal by profession, and that training defines how I lead: I pay attention to the details others ignore, I listen when people feel dismissed, and I make sure no one is pushed aside or silenced.

I ran for this office because the 5th District deserved more than excuses, delays, and empty promises. For too long, residents told me the same story over and over again: concerns raised, meetings attended, voices heard—but nothing changed. That kind of neglect doesn’t just hurt morale; it damages neighborhoods, lowers quality of life, and erodes trust in government.

I stepped forward because I refuse to accept that any district should be treated as an afterthought. Every block matters. Every family matters. And every resident deserves an alderperson who shows up, follows through, and fights—especially when it’s uncomfortable.

My legislative priorities are shaped directly by the people I represent. Blight reduction and housing are at the top of that list. Vacant and neglected properties drag down entire neighborhoods, threaten public safety, and strip communities of pride. I am pushing for



Alderwoman Sandra Martinez-McCarthy, fighting for transparency and a change to the Alder Rules during organizational meeting.

real enforcement, responsible development, and housing solutions that stabilize our streets without displacing the people who built them.

Infrastructure and road conditions are just as urgent. Safe streets, functional sidewalks, and reliable public works are not luxuries—they are basic responsibilities of government. Families, seniors, businesses,

and first responders all depend on them. I will continue demanding fair, equitable investment in the 5th District, not symbolic gestures or last-minute fixes.

I lead in a direct, no-nonsense, neighborhood-first way. I listen. I stay accessible. And I bring residents’ concerns straight to the table—whether it’s popular or not. I do not back down, and I do not stay quiet when our district is ignored.

Serving as Alderwoman is about presence, accountability, and results. I am honored to represent the 5th District, and I will keep fighting—loudly, clearly, and relentlessly—to make sure our voices are heard, respected, and acted on.



**John Murray**  
The Waterbury Observer

## The Waterbury Observer

Kudos to the new Waterbury Board of Aldermen for beginning the onerous task of transforming the board into a thoughtful legislative arm of local government for the first time in decades.

Long viewed as a rubber stamp to whichever political power held the Mayor's Office, the new board, sworn in on December 1st, 2025, has literally slowed down business as usual inside City Hall.

Meetings that routinely adjourned after an hour, with little debate, now stretch past midnight. Last night's meeting gaveled out just before 1 am, a seven-hour marathon with probing questions, legal challenges, procedural challenges, bruised feelings, and apologies. It was raw look a democracy beginning to emerge in Waterbury.

Board President Michael DiGiovancarlo (D) has skillfully adjusted to the new vibe on the board and has been patient with the numerous procedural challenges thrown his way. There are three separate political caucuses on the board: Majority Caucus (comprised of 8 Democrats and 1 Republican), the Minority Caucus (comprised of 4 Republicans), and a Minority Caucus of the Majority Party (comprised

of two independent-minded Democrats). No president of the board in the past four decades has faced such a delicate balancing act.

After the voters of Waterbury voted to elect its alderman by district in 2014 (three each in the five districts in Waterbury), the North End and South End of the city had direct representation on the Board of Aldermen for the first time in 100 years.

Many voters in Waterbury still do not understand how city government works, and one could make an effective argument that is by design. At the core of government, the aldermen act as a district's voice in deciding contracts, approving the budget and bonding projects. But in Waterbury, both before and after the historic aldermen-by-district vote, the strong mayor system in the city ceded authoritative power to whomever was mayor.

There was some pushback by a small group of individuals on the board's Minority Party in the past 30 years; Nick Augelli (R) against Mayor Mike Bergin (D), John Sarlo (D) against Mayor Phil Giordano (R), Larry De Pillo (I and D) against Mayor Mike Jarjura (D) and Mayor Neil O'Leary (D), and Steve Giacomi (R) against Mayor Neil O'Leary (D).

It was expected that the minority party would mount some opposition to power, but with the numbers overwhelmingly stacked against them, it amounted to Don Quixote charging the windmill. Things have changed. Two Democrats (Rafael

“Meetings that routinely adjourned after an hour, with little debate, now stretch past midnight. Last night's meeting gaveled out just before 1 am, a seven-hour marathon with probing questions, legal challenges, procedural challenges, bruised feelings, and apologies. It was raw look a democracy beginning to emerge in Waterbury.”



Feliciano-Roman and Sandra Martinez-McCarthy) have broken off to form their own independent caucus from the Majority Party, and they are asking a lot of pointed and thoughtful questions to power.

Roman, a self-described policy nerd, has been the change agent that the city has needed to further realize the potential of electing Waterbury's alderman by district. Well versed in Robert's Rule of Order (the procedure used to run meetings), Roman has also schooled himself on the nuances of the City Charter. His challenges

to procedural rules have frequently paralyzed President DiGiovancarlo and city attorneys. A passionate orator, Roman uncorked a speech last night stating that he is opposed to business as usual, and dispensing contracts without discussion like Pez candy. He is demanding transparency.

Other aldermen and alderwomen breathing democracy onto the board are Minority leader Kelly Zimmerman, Republican Adrian Sanchez, and Republican Michael Grosso. Republican Bryan McEntee has used his legal training to ask sharp

questions. Democrats Ian Blake and Sean Mosely are vocal and ask lots of questions, and Democrat Kenny Curran has provided a voice of reason when emotions begin to heat up inside aldermanic chambers.

It's a new day in Waterbury, and while most citizens remain completely unaware, progress is happening, and the governing process in the city is evolving in real time. It's not always pretty, but it's raw and real and it's positive for the citizens of Waterbury.

What do you think Waterbury?

“Roman, a self-described policy nerd, has been the change agent that the city has needed to further realize the potential of electing Waterbury's alderman by district. Well versed in Robert's Rule of Order (the procedure used to run meetings), Roman has also schooled himself on the nuances of the City Charter. His challenges to procedural rules have frequently paralyzed President DiGiovancarlo and city attorneys. A passionate orator, Roman uncorked a speech last night stating that he is opposed to business as usual, and dispensing contracts without discussion like Pez candy. He is demanding transparency.”

### EDITORIAL CONTINUED

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ALDERMAN

**“My goal during my time as Alderman is to strengthen trust between residents and local government, advocate for responsible growth, and ensure Waterbury, especially the South End, continues to move forward in a way that benefits everyone.”**

.....  
**Adrian Sanchez**



It is truly an honor to serve you as your Alderman. I was born and raised in Waterbury, and like many of you, this city is not just where I live but who I am. My values were shaped right here in the South End, where I grew up playing at the South End Recreation Center and later gave back by coaching in the Roberto Clemente Baseball League. These experiences taught me the importance of mentorship, teamwork, and community pride and continue to guide my

public service. For more than seventeen years, I have served the residents of Waterbury as a Sergeant with the Waterbury Police Department. Throughout my career, I have worked in specialized units, mentored young officers, and received multiple commendations for service and leadership. In addition to my professional duties, I have spent nearly two decades volunteering with youth sports, PAL programs, and community organizations that provide structure, opportunity,

and positive direction for our children. These experiences have given me a direct understanding of the challenges and strengths of our neighborhoods.

I am proud to serve alongside Alderman Rafael Feliciano Roman and Sandra Martinez, and together we are fully committed to representing our 5th district to the fullest extent possible. We work as a team with a shared purpose to advocate for our residents, strengthen our community, and ensure the South End continues

moving forward. My vision is clear and focused on making the South End stronger, safer, and full of opportunity for families and small businesses.

Nothing I do is possible without the support of my family. My wife Natasha and our five children are my greatest motivation and push me every day to be the best version of myself. They remind me why this work matters and who we are serving when decisions are made at City Hall.

As your Alderman, my commitment is to be

present, prepared, and accountable. I believe responsible governance begins with transparency, fiscal discipline, and respect for taxpayers. I will carefully review budgets, contracts, and proposals to ensure decisions are made in the best interest of residents and not for convenience or politics. Equally important, I am committed to being accessible. Constituents deserve an Alderman who listens, responds, and follows through. Whether the issue involves public safety, quality of life in

our neighborhoods, or city services, I want residents to know their concerns matter and will be addressed.

My goal during my time as Alderman is to strengthen trust between residents and local government, advocate for responsible growth, and ensure Waterbury, especially the South End, continues to move forward in a way that benefits everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this district with honesty, dedication, and respect.

## PALACE THEATER AGREEMENT REVIEW



The Fifth District Voice Staff

Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman filed an order directing the City of Waterbury Corporation Counsel and the Office of the Mayor to appoint an independent outside reviewer to assess the Palace Theater Operating Agreement, specifically under Clause 14.13 – Entire Agreement; Changes,

which requires that any amendments be agreed to in writing and comply with the city's Procurement Ordinance.

The review will clarify any confusing language, propose updates, and provide recommendations to ensure the operator is meeting all contractual obligations with independent oversight. A copy of the report will be provided to Alderman Feliciano-Roman, and any recommended updates

will be presented to the Board of Aldermen for final approval.

Additionally, the Palace Theater Group will be invited to a public hearing to present their annual business plan, highlight budget successes, and discuss areas of opportunity for improvement.

"This initiative is about making the Palace Theater the diamond of the 5th District—more inclusive, transparent, and accountable to the citizens and government of Waterbury," said Alderman Feliciano-Roman. By combining independent review with public engagement, this effort strengthens oversight, accountability, and ensures the theater continues to serve the community effectively.

*Mattatuck Museum is a gem in the heart of downtown*

## MATTATUCK MUSEUM THE CITY'S SOLE MUSEUM IS

### AN ESCAPE INTO HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The Fifth District Voice Staff

The Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury's sole museum, is more than a cultural landmark—it is an escape into history in the making. From art and industry to the stories of the people who shaped our city, the museum preserves Waterbury's past while inspiring its future. It serves as a space where residents, families, and visitors can reflect, learn, and connect with the rich diversity of our community.

The 5th District Alders are especially excited for the upcoming



Taíno Vive exhibit, opening in June 2025 and running through October. This powerful exhibit will center

Taíno culture, history, and living legacy, honoring Indigenous Caribbean roots that remain deeply connected to many Waterbury families.

We encourage everyone to visit the Mattatuck Museum, support this important cultural institution, and experience Taíno Vive as a celebration of heritage, identity, and resilience.

## In the Wings! Upcoming Shows in the 5th District

Provided by Theater Websites/Press Releases  
The 5th District is home to a majority of Waterbury's major Theater and Art Organizations.



Located in Hamilton Park  
1 Plank Rd, Waterbury, CT 06705  
Phone: (203) 757-4676  
www.sevenangelstheatre.org



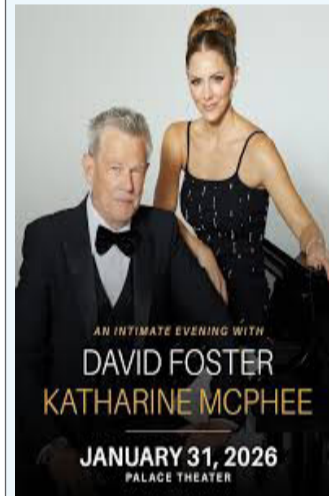
January 24 at 7:30pm



January 29 at 7:30pm



Located in Downtown Waterbury  
100 E Main St, Waterbury, CT 06702  
Phone: (203) 346-2000  
www.palacetheaterct.org



JANUARY 31, 2026  
PALACE THEATER



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7TH  
8 PM



FEBRUARY 13  
SHOWS @ 7:30

PALACE THEATER - POLI CLUB  
WATERBURY, CT



Theater without Walls  
Greater Waterbury Connecticut  
Phone: (475) 374-5021  
www.palantetheater.org



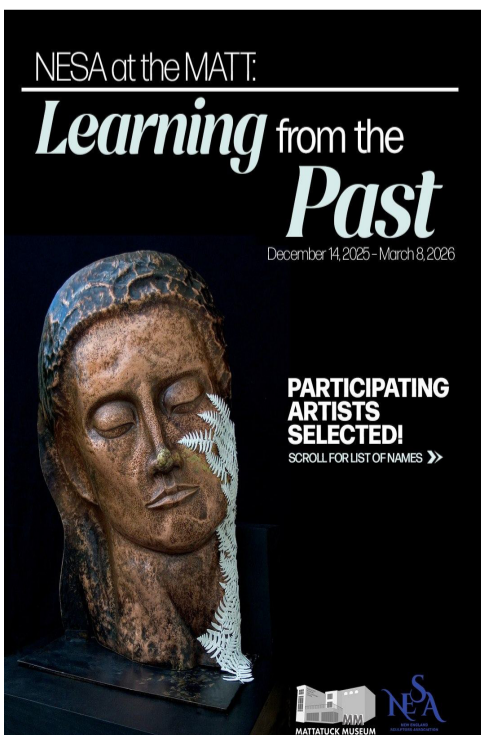
FEBRUARY 14th - 15th 2026

WEEKEND SCREENING LOCATIONS

TICKETS - ON SALE NOW | FILMS | MEET THE ARTISTS

WWW.PALANTEATHEATER.ORG

## Current Mattatuck Museum Exhibits



NESA at the MATT:  
**Learning from the Past**  
December 14, 2025 - March 8, 2026

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS SELECTED!  
SCROLL FOR LIST OF NAMES >>



**MIX MASTER 2026**

JURIED MEMBERS' EXHIBITION  
JANUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 22, 2026



**STAFF FAVORITES**  
from the Mattatuck Collection



**THE AFRO LATIN FILM FESTIVAL**  
CONNECTIONS 2026



## Minority of the Majority

THE PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS HAS OFFICIALLY FORMED

**Alderwoman Martinez-McCarthy** the separation of powers between keep proper checks and balances. As proud Democrats, we Our focus is clear: put the 5th District first, then consider the broader impact on Waterbury and our Latino communities. This is about principled leadership, accountability, and making sure the voices of our residents are heard.

**Alderman Feliciano-Roman** the Executive and Legislative branches. From my experience, agreed to participate in a caucus with the understanding that the Mayor would not be a permanent member. Recent events have shown that he now is, which Alderman Feliciano-Roman will address. Our caucus is about legislating

**Alderwoman Sandra Martinez-McCarthy**, along with Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman, have formed a two-person caucus within the Waterbury Board of Aldermen. This decision was intentional because we both deeply believe in our oversight responsibilities and

with diligence, asking the hard questions, and performing due diligence. We are willing to challenge the status quo because too often others in our party have avoided asking tough questions out of fear—fear of retaliation, fear of losing endorsements, or fear of losing leadership roles. I have experienced this firsthand.

Rafael and I are committed to working collaboratively with both the Democratic Establishment Caucus and the Republican Caucus. We have communicated to President DiGiovancarlo and Minority Leader Zimmerman that we are willing to listen, engage, and advocate for legislation we believe serves the best interests of our constituents and the city as a whole.

## ALDERMAN ROMAN'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

MOTIONS, ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS FILED 12.15.2025

**13** First pieces of legislation filed by Alderman Feliciano-Roman

**UPDATES**

604-522-2533 | 115 Martin Street, Waterbury, CT 06708 | [rafael@rafaelroman.com](mailto:rafael@rafaelroman.com) | [www.5thdistrict.org](http://www.5thdistrict.org)

### Government Transparency, Accountability & Oversight

- "Municipal Transparency in Boards & Commissions Act" (Legislation #178) & "Public Service Role Disclosure Act" (Legislation #17C)
- Would require all boards/commissioners to file each member's Aldermanic District and, applicable, municipal employment department and job title. Increases public insight into geographic and institutional representation.
- Update 12/27/2025: Correspondence Sent to Corporation Counsel // Tabled to Date Certain: Monday March 9, 2026 Board of Alders Meeting
- "Bond Accountability & Reporting Act" (Legislation #168)
- Mandates the Finance Department to publish detailed information on all city bonds, including issuance dates, annual payments, payoff schedule, and any unused balances.
- APPROVED 15 - 0 BY THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMAN (NOTICE TO BE SENT TO FINANCE DEPARTMENT FOR REPORT TO BE GIVEN TO ALDERS)
- "City Property Transparency & Utilization Act" (Legislation #21)
- Requires the Finance Department to provide a full inventory of city-owned properties, including costs, redevelopment plans, tenants, rent rolls, pending losses, and occupancy percentages.
- APPROVED 15 - 0 BY THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMAN (NOTICE TO BE SENT TO FINANCE DEPARTMENT FOR REPORT TO BE GIVEN TO ALDERS)

### Institutional Reform, Arts Governance & Contract Review

- "Arts, Culture & Tourism Creation Act" (Legislation #17A)
- Merges the Public Arts Committee and the Arts & Tourism Commission into a single, strengthened Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission, expanding membership to 13 with balanced party and unaffiliated representation.
- Update 12/27/2025: Correspondence Sent to Corporation Counsel
- "Independent Review of Palace Theater Operating Agreement" (Legislation #18A)
- Calls for an external reviewer to assess and clarify the Palace Theater contract, ensure compliance with obligations, and recommend updates. Requires a public hearing where the Palace Theater Group presents its business plan, budget, and performance.
- Update 12/27/2025: Correspondence Sent to Corporation Counsel
- "No Dual Officeholding Ordinance (2031)" (Legislation #18C)
- Prohibits individuals from holding two elected offices simultaneously starting in 2031. Requires legal language drafted by the Law Department.
- DENIED (VOTE 4-3 IN COMMITTEE BY ESTABLISHMENT DEMOCRATS: TO DENY HEARING, DISCUSSION, EXPLORATION ALDERS BLAKE, CURRAN, HUNTER, WEASER. VOTED IN FAVOR OF EXPLORATION & DISCUSSION ALDERS FELICIANO-ROMAN, GRASSO & ZIMMERMAN.

### Housing, Equity & Anti-Displacement Policy

- "Gentrification Mitigation Zone Ordinance" (Legislation #4)
- Establishes protective policies in federally designated Opportunity Zones, including:
  - 25% inclusionary zoning for developments over five units
  - Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) measures
  - Tenant empowerment to form Limited-Equity Cooperatives (LECs) through democratic selection of partner agencies
- Aims to reduce displacement and support community ownership.
- Update 12/27/2025: Correspondence Sent to Corporation Counsel // Tabled to Date Certain: Monday February 23, 2026 Board of Alders Meeting

### Youth, Civic Engagement & Democratic Innovation

- "Youth Voice in Governance Act" (Legislation #20B)
- Creates two non-voting Youth Alders (juniors or seniors in Waterbury Public Schools) with full debate rights, executive session access, and representation. Elections begin in the 2027 municipal cycle.
- Update 12/27/2025: Correspondence Sent to Corporation Counsel // \*Noted that the Establishment Democrats wanted to DENY this Order and voted in Caucus to originally deny it.
- "Future of Democracy Referendum Initiative" (Legislation #19)
- Directs the Board of Aldermen to hold hearings and place three non-binding questions on the 2028 ballot:
  - Ranked Choice Voting for municipal offices
  - Term Limits for local elected officials
  - Participatory Budgeting at the district level for equitable resource distribution
- Update 12/27/2025: Correspondence Sent to Corporation Counsel // Tabled to Date Certain: Monday March 9, 2026 Board of Alders Meeting

### Community & Cultural Development

- "Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural District Act" (Legislation #18A)
- Creates a formally designated Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural District encompassing key cultural sites, South End/Downtown/Baldwin/Wilcox corridors, walkable areas, and public amenities. Requires a public hearing for community input and shared district goals.
- Update 12/27/2025: Correspondence Sent to Corporation Counsel // Tabled to Date Certain: Monday February 23, 2026 Board of Alders Meeting
- "Rolling Mill Park Renewal or Reuse Act" (Legislation #16C)
- Directs the Parks Commission and Mayor's Office to provide a written plan for the long-neglected Rolling Mill Playground—either fully rehabilitating it, decommissioning it to build a larger neighborhood park, or converting it into a City Dog Park.
- Update 12/27/2025: Correspondence Sent to Corporation Counsel // Tabled to Date Certain: Monday February 23, 2026 Board of Alders Meeting
- "Community Anchor Sites Expansion Act" (Legislation #18B)
- Authorizes the sale of three city-owned parcels for \$1 to the Rivera Memorial Foundation to support its expansion and long-term community service programming.
- Update 12/27/2025: Correspondence Sent to Corporation Counsel // Tabled to Date Certain: Tuesday January 20, 2026 Board of Alders Meeting

## THE 16<sup>TH</sup> ALDERMAN?

**Alderman Feliciano-Roman** Recently, this power was codified when the Mayor joined the Majority Caucus, allowing private, non-public meetings with legislative members, circumventing transparency, accountability, and the oversight role designed for aldermen. Aldermen are elected by district to represent residents directly, yet this maneuver systematically excluded the 5th District from nearly 50% of board and commission representation. Our city's founders intended a weak mayor form of government, with aldermen providing the

**The Mayor of Waterbury**, thanks to a little-known provision in the City Charter, now has "a voice, a seat, and the ability to introduce legislation" to the Board of Aldermen—making the Mayor the 16th Alderman. For decades, Democratic mayors—from Jarjura to O'Leary and into Mayor Pernerewski's first year—used this loophole to operate as both executive and legislative power, undermining the co-equal authority of the Board.

necessary check on executive power. Instead, political machines have steadily eroded that authority, and the current mayor—once an alder himself—has reinforced this imbalance.

Charter revision is needed. The Mayor should be an executive, not the 16th Alder, and the Board of Aldermen must regain its intended power, restoring accountability and representation for the people of Waterbury.

## 5TH DISTRICT ALDERS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MOTIONS, ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS FILED 01.05.2026

The following items were filed by all three of your 5th District Board of Aldermen collectively and we were all united in our agreement for passage of these items.

**3** Pieces of legislation co-filed by Alderman Feliciano-Roman for January 06, 2026 Board of Aldermen Meeting

604-522-2533 | 115 Martin Street, Waterbury, CT 06708 | [rafael@rafaelroman.com](mailto:rafael@rafaelroman.com) | [www.5thdistrict.org](http://www.5thdistrict.org)

### The Hobart Welton Carriage Shed Historic Recognition Resolution

- Co-Sponsored by Alderwoman Sandra Martinez-McCarthy and Alderman Adrian Sanchez - 5<sup>th</sup> District
- Ordered that the City of Waterbury shall design, procure, and install a historic landmark street sign recognizing the Hobart Welton Carriage Shed, located at Wolcott Road and Manor Avenue, as a designated historic site, acknowledging its historical significance to the City of Waterbury; and be it further
- Furthermore, that the members of the Bouley Manor Neighborhood Association are formally recognized by the Waterbury Board of Aldermen for their dedicated efforts in the preservation and stewardship of this historic City landmark.

### Board and Commission Appointment Transparency Ordinance

- Co-Sponsors: Kelly Zimmerman, Minority Leader, Alder 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Michael Grasso, Alderman - 1<sup>st</sup> District, Adrian Sanchez, Board of Alder, 5<sup>th</sup> District, Sandra Martinez-McCarthy, Alder, 5<sup>th</sup> District, Bryan McEntee, Alder 2<sup>nd</sup> District
- This proposed ordinance creates a clear, fair, and public process for filling vacancies on all City Boards and Commissions—fully consistent with the City Charter. What it does:
  - Requires the Mayor to notify the Board of Aldermen and the public when seats are vacant or terms are expiring
  - Publishes a full list of open seats, expiring terms, and who is eligible for appointment
  - Allows Aldermen and members of the public to submit letters of interest and resumes (with consent)
  - Ensures submissions are compiled by Board leadership and shared publicly on the Aldermen's agenda
  - Preserves the Mayor's appointment authority under the City Charter

### Baldwin Street Capital Improvement & Infrastructure Status Resolution

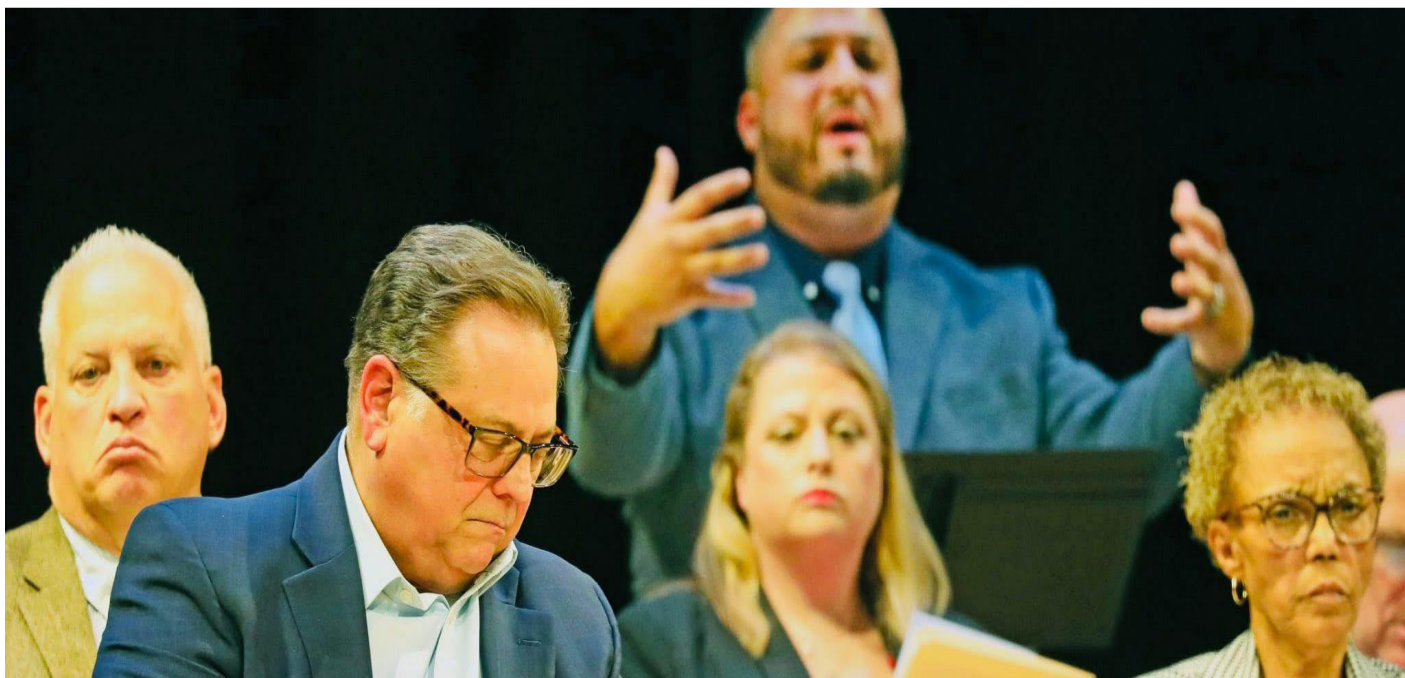
- Co-Sponsored by Alderwoman Sandra Martinez-McCarthy and Alderman Adrian Sanchez - 5<sup>th</sup> District
- The Board of Aldermen has ordered the Department of Public Works to deliver a full Capital Improvement and Infrastructure Status Report on Baldwin Street. The report will include:
  - A timeline of past, current, and planned gas line, utility, and road work
  - A full cost estimate for complete reconstruction and repaving (roadway, curbs, sidewalks, and substructure)
  - Records of all patching and temporary repairs over the past 10 years
  - An assessment of Baldwin Street's priority for inclusion in the City's Capital Improvement Plan, including funding options and timelines

## ALDERMAN SANCHEZ'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

MOTIONS, ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS FILED 01.20.2026

The following items were items co-sponsored by your 5th District Alders and a brief overview of the aims of the motion, order or resolution. Including lead author/presenter.

- Requesting approval of Executive Employment Contracts, DROP Participation, and Contract Extension Authority.
- Requesting Approval and Production of Executive Employment Contracts and Related Retirement Provisions
- Requesting Approval of Unpaid School Employee Workdays during Emergency Water Main Closures.



Mayor Paul Pernerewski listens to Alderman Feliciano-Roman discuss a new rules package. As of the date of this publication, Mayor Pernerewski has still yet to reach out to sit with or communicate to Alderman Roman regarding working together for the residents of the 5th District.

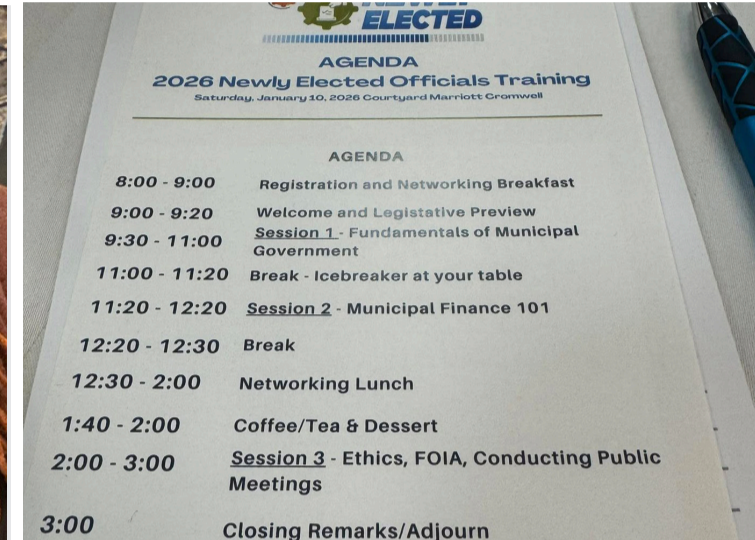
Photo: John Murray

## CT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES NEWLEY ELECTED

### OFFICIALS TRAINING RECAP ... CON'T FROM PAGE 1

government and covered three core areas essential to effective leadership: ethics and Freedom of Information compliance, municipal finance, and how to properly govern and conduct public meetings. Each session was practical, informative, and grounded in real-world challenges faced by municipalities. Beyond the workshops, the event provided an outstanding networking opportunity. I had the honor of meeting and congratulating Alders, City Councilors, Selectmen, and Mayors from communities across the state. I was especially pleased to meet the Mayor of Norwich, Swarnjit Singh, and reconnect with the incredible Mayor Bobby Sanchez of New Britain. These conversations allow cities to learn from one another and share ideas that strengthen local governance statewide. One of my biggest takeaways was learning more about ClearGov, a budgeting and transparency tool currently used by Bristol, Connecticut. ClearGov allows residents

to easily view and download municipal budgets and receive updates, demonstrating how technology can modernize government and improve transparency and public trust. I was also invited to participate in discussions about reviving the Urban Legislators Working Group, a collaborative space for cities with a Mayor-Council form of government to share best practices and address shared challenges. I remain committed to continuous learning and bringing back ideas that strengthen accountability, transparency, and good governance. My goal is simple: to better serve the residents of the 5th District and the City of Waterbury. Thank you to CCM for hosting such a valuable workshop—and a special thank you to my fellow 5th District Alderman Adrian Sanchez for the carpool, great conversation, and plenty of laughs along the way.



Top L: CCM Newly Elected Welcome Slide, Top R: CCM Joe Delong, Executive Director & CEO addresses attendees. Bottom L: Alderman Feliciano-Roman and Middletown City Councilwoman Shanay N. Fulton, Bottom R: Agenda for CCM Newly Elected Training.

Photo: Alderman Feliciano-Roman

## READY, NOT REACTIVE: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN THE 5TH DISTRICT

### 5th District Alders

The recent water main break emergency response in Waterbury showed that while the City had a plan, gaps remain in communication and coordination at the district level. As the Alders representing the 5th District, we believe preparedness must be proactive, transparent, and centered on residents — ready, not reactive. During the incident, the Board of Alders were not fully briefed on how the City's plan applied to individual districts. Communication followed internal channels with the Mayor's Office, but did not include direct, timely updates to district representatives.

confusion due to unclear or delayed shutdown notices. In addition, emergency communications were not consistently translated into multiple languages, leaving some residents without critical information. While the City ultimately managed the emergency, these challenges revealed clear opportunities to improve preparedness and equity. The 5th District Alders are calling on Board President Michael DiGiovancarlo to convene an ad hoc committee on district-level emergency preparedness to work collaboratively with the administration on recommendations that complement the City's overall emergency plan. If action is not taken, we will convene



This limited our ability to quickly relay accurate information to residents. Distribution centers were not centralized in the 5th District, creating barriers for seniors, people with disabilities, and residents in the Central/Downtown area. Many 5th District restaurants also experienced

neighborhood listening sessions in March and April to gather resident input and develop a community-informed emergency preparedness plan for the 5th District. Preparedness is about learning, improving, and ensuring no one is left behind in the next emergency.

## Standing Together: The 5th District's Response to the Water Main Break



## SANCHEZ SECTION

### Minority Member Special Section

*The contents of this section are fully controlled and maintained by 5th District Alderman, Republican Minority Member, Adrian Sanchez.*

I dedicate my first Minority Member Section to my family, who are my greatest source of strength. To my youngest daughter, Nyla, who just turned five; my oldest daughter, Trinitey, who recently graduated high school and is now a freshman at Central Connecticut State University; and to my loving wife, whose support makes all I do possible. Recently, we traveled out of state to enjoy quality time together, reconnect, and recenter as a family. Especially in light of recent events, they remind me why this work matters. My family is not only my strength—they are a vital part of this district, and I honor them here.



Top: Alderman Sanchez with his youngest daughter, Nyla, who just turned five. Middle: The Sanchez family in New York City celebrating Nyla's birthday this past weekend. Bottom: Alderman Sanchez carrying his oldest daughter, Trinitey, after her high school graduation; now a freshman at Central Connecticut State University. Photos submitted by Alderman Sanchez



Over 50 Latino community members in Waterbury come together for a listening session addressing local concerns, January 20, 2024 at the The Latino and Puerto Rican Policy Agenda Summit in UCONN Waterbury.

Photo: Maricarmen Cajahuaringa /Connecticut Public

## BOMBSHELL REPORT EXPOSES LACK OF REPRESENTATION OF 5TH DISTRICT ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- continued from page 1

representation from the 5th District. This level of exclusion is not only alarming, it is egregious.

The boards and commissions with no 5th District representation include: Arts and Tourism Commission, Board of Ethics Fire Commission, Parks Commission, Public Works, Planning Commission, Environmental Control Commission, Fair Rent Commission, Housing Authority, Inland/Wetlands Commission. These bodies wield significant authority over cultural visibility, ethical governance, land use, housing stability, environmental protection, infrastructure, and public safety. The complete absence of 5th District voices from these decision-making tables means that major



policies shaping residents' daily lives are being made without input from one of Waterbury's most diverse and vibrant districts.

The report further shows a stark imbalance in overall appointments. While some aldermanic districts hold 30 or more seats across boards and commissions, the 5th District holds barely a fraction of that number. This disparity cannot be explained away as coincidence—it reflects a long-standing structural

failure in how nominations and appointments are made.

This bombshell report is now being formally shared with the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor, with the hope that long-overdue ordinance changes will finally be advanced. The 5th District delegation is also calling on the President of the Board of Aldermen to establish an Ad Hoc Committee charged with developing clear, enforceable recommendations to ensure equitable district representation and guarantee that the 5th District has a seat on every board and commission. "This data confirms

McCarthy underscored the consequences of exclusion: "When the 5th District is missing from boards overseeing housing, ethics, parks, and public safety, residents are denied a voice in decisions that directly affect their quality of life. Equity in representation is not optional—it is fundamental to good governance."

Alderman Adrian Sanchez added, "This is about fairness and accountability. The 5th District deserves real representation, not token gestures. I am committed to working with my colleagues to ensure our district finally has an equal seat at the table."

**“ This data confirms what our community has experienced for far too long—decisions are being made about us, without us.**

-Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman.

what our community has experienced for far too long—decisions are being made about us, without us," said Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman. "Nearly half of our boards operate with zero 5th District representation. That is a systemic failure, and I will continue to fight for ordinance reform, expanded seats, and a process that reflects all of Waterbury."

Alderwoman Sandra Martinez-

The 5th District alders remain united in their call for transparency, legislative reform, and expanded opportunities for civic participation, so that every neighborhood in Waterbury is represented where decisions are made.

This report is not an endpoint—it is a call to action.



Center photo: Public Speaker (Credit Waterbury Youtube Page) Bottom Left Photo Alderwoman Martinez-McCarthy, 5th District Alders at Inauguration Day, December 1, 2025.

Want to see your community event listed in the February "Fifth District Voice," Newsletter that currently has over 3,000 subscribers. Email your community event/flyer to Alderman Feliciano-Roman at [aldermanfelicianoroman@waterburyct.org](mailto:aldermanfelicianoroman@waterburyct.org). Deadline for items to be included are the 15th of each month newsletter gets released digitally and goes to print on the 20th of each month.

## Featured Flyers

**3RD ANNUAL AFRO LATINO FILM FESTIVAL CONNECTICUT 2026**

HARTFORD WATERBURY

PA'LANTE THEATER COMPANY

3RD ANNUAL

FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2026

VARIOUS SCREENING LOCATIONS  
CONNECTICUT | WATERBURY, HARTFORD, NEW LONDON

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! | FILMS | #HALFF #PALANTETHEATER

WWW.PALANTETHEATER.ORG

AFRO-CARIBBEAN CULTURE CENTER PRESENTS

COFFEE & TEA EXPO: SIPPING CULTURE, TASTING COMMUNITY

# CAFECITO fest

MAR 21 2026

12 PM - 4 PM

DRUBNER CENTER,  
850 STRAITS TURNPIKE,  
MIDDLEBURY, CT 06762

<https://www.taino-nation.org/cafecito>

## JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> - FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

Waterbury Community

**HEALTH WELLNESS AND FITNESS EXPO**

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

Health Screenings  
Mental Health Resources  
Holistic Health Alternatives  
Fitness Resources

12 NOON - 3PM  
North End Rec Center  
268 N Main Street, Waterbury, CT  
www.built4success.org

Multicultural Community Event

Free THEM Inc. Learn, Grow & Love

JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> 2026

Start at 1:00 pm  
Waterbury City Hall  
235 Grand St., Waterbury, CT 06702

Free Food, Giveaways, Health Resources, Music, Performances, Gifts, Fun and more!

Volunteer Sign Up  
Survey

SCAN ME! SCAN ME!

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

UCONN

January 2026

Monthly Newsletter

OLLTI at UConn is a member-driven lifelong learning program offering courses, lectures, and special events for people 50+ who want to engage socially and intellectually. We offer classes, activities and events throughout the year, in-person at UConn Waterbury and online. All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS & EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring 2026 Registration Opens January 19

Scan the QR code to the left to read the full catalog or email us at [osher@uconn.edu](mailto:osher@uconn.edu) and we'll mail you a catalog.

Community Presentations  
Litchfield Community Center, 421 Bantam Road, Litchfield, January 21, 12PM  
Wolcott Library, 469 Board Line Road, Wolcott, January 28, 3PM

Financial Assistance Program  
Our Financial Assistance Program is available to anyone who would like to be an OLLTI member but may not have the financial resources for the membership fee of \$65. Funds are available for annual membership only. This program was made possible by donations to OLLTI at UConn. Contact us for more details.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!  
Want to check us out? Email or call us for a chat and a tour of the campus.  
<https://ollti.uconn.edu> [osher@uconn.edu](mailto:osher@uconn.edu) 203-236-9924

LEAD Senior Program

Fun, friendship, and activities for people over 60!

Painting Workshop  
• Games  
• Dance and movement  
• Snack, gifts!!!  
• And much more...

Every Thursday  
98 Bank St. Waterbury  
From 2:30 to 4:00 PM.

Join us for painting workshops, dancing, and more in a welcoming and energetic setting.  
More information - 203-709-2137

THE WATERBURY BLACK GIVING CIRCLE'S

**JUNETEENTH ORATORICAL CONTEST**

Waterbury students in grades 3-12: Prepare a 3-5 minute speech about the importance of Black History.

CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS!  
SUBMIT BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026.

Scan the QR code for full submission guidelines.  
[juneteenth@connct.org](mailto:juneteenth@connct.org)

**WOMEN SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2026**

Looking for teams interested in joining our Saturday league in Waterbury, CT! Anyone interested should reach out to us.

CONTACT US  
203-982-4668  
203-206-3022  
<https://www.facebook.com/salsaboricua>

The City of Waterbury Presents

**WINTER is the Pits**

FEBRUARY 7  
11:00AM - 4:00PM

- HUGE BONFIRE
- 12 FIRE PITS
- THE MOBILE PUB
- TRAIN RIDES FOR KIDS
- FOOD TRUCKS
- MUSIC
- GAMES

Bring the whole family!

HAMILTON PARK  
110 Hamilton Park Rd, Waterbury, CT 06705  
(Shuttle from Hamilton Ave Commuter Parking Lot)

Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive

SPONSORED BY OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

Lambda Rho Chapter Blood Drive

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Held at the Waterbury YMCA  
136 West Main Street

Come give blood for a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice.  
See [rcblood.org/heart](http://rcblood.org/heart)

For an appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Use Keyword: **Waterbury**

City of Waterbury Bureau of Recreation

**SPRING BREAK CAMP!**

- Washington Park House - 283 Sylvan Ave - Waterbury, CT
- North End Rec - 268 North Main Street - Waterbury, CT
- 9AM - 3PM
- \$25 PER CHILD
- Breakfast & Lunch NOT Provided - Bring Your Lunch
- No Transportation Provided

DATES: APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
Registration Opens MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2026!  
[www.waterburyct.myrec.com](http://www.waterburyct.myrec.com)

OPEN TO THOSE IN GRADES 1<sup>ST</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>

Waterbury BUILD YOUR CITY.

Tradespeople WORK IN WATERBURY.

Are you a Waterbury resident looking for local work?  
The Waterbury Good Jobs Ordinance prioritizes local talent for publicly funded projects. We need skilled professionals and motivated beginners!

Attend our Open House! FEBRUARY 11, 2026 12PM - 4PM  
AMERICAN JOB CENTER, 249 THOMASTON AVE, WATERBURY

Join Our Registry!  
The NRWJ is collecting resumes & credentials for the following roles:  
• Experienced Equipment Operators (including heavy equipment)  
• Skilled Trades: Plumbers, Electricians, HVAC Techs, Carpenters, etc.  
• General Labor: Entry-level roles and assistants (OSHA 10 required).

Can't make it? E-mail your resume & credentials to [Joel.Norwalk@nrwj.org](mailto:Joel.Norwalk@nrwj.org) to get registered without attending.

Need a Resume? Visit the Waterbury American Job Center at 249 Thomaston Avenue for FREE resume-writing support before the event!

**MEN'S CIRCLE OF CHOICES**

A Weekly Seminar for Growth, Accountability & Brotherhood

MEN OF WATERBURY—THIS IS YOUR CIRCLE.

A space where real conversations lead to real change.

No judgment. No labels. Just men coming together to strengthen their choices, their families.

WHY THIS CIRCLE EXISTS—  
Life doesn't come with a manual—especially after setbacks, incarceration, violence, or financial pressure. This circle is for men who are ready to pause, reflect, and choose differently—with support.

- Rebuilding after incarceration
- Navigating anger, violence, or street life
- A father trying to do better for his children
- A young man looking for direction
- A man carrying weight silently

You belong here.

WHEN & WHERE •  
• EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 6PM-8PM  
• Berkeley Heights Recreation Education & Resource Center  
• 277 Longhill Road, Waterbury

ONE CHOICE CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.  
Your past does not define you. Your next decision does.  
Join the Men's Circle of Choices.

VISIT [THEUNGROUPOFSOCIETY.ORG](http://THEUNGROUPOFSOCIETY.ORG)

City of Waterbury Bureau of Recreation

**EASTER EGG HUNT!**

The Easter Bunny is Coming! Get Ready to Hunt!

Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

12:00 PM  
Washington Park House  
283 Sylvan Ave, Waterbury, CT 06706

Ages 5-12 | Rain Date March 28<sup>th</sup> | Register Online

Pre registration required. [www.waterburyct.myrec.com](http://www.waterburyct.myrec.com)  
203-574-8297

SEND YOUR COMMUNITY FLYER FOR NEXT MONTH TO  
[ALDERMANFELICIANOROMAN@WATERBURYCT.ORG](mailto:ALDERMANFELICIANOROMAN@WATERBURYCT.ORG)

## What schools are in the fifth district?

Board of Alders are limited in scope and oversight on school budget & matters.

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

Within the physical boundaries of the 5th Aldermanic District, there are currently four public schools and one charter school. This is important because when it comes to infrastructure needs, building repairs, and capital improvements,

these schools will be a top priority for the 5th District Alders. Many families in our district live within walking distance of these schools, making their safety, condition, and accessibility especially critical to daily community life. The schools located in the 5th District are: Brass City Charter School, Maloney Magnet School, Roberto Clemente International Dual Language School, Waterbury Arts Magnet School, and Washington Elementary School.



Top Left: Brass City Charter; Center Maloney Magnet School, Top Right: Roberto Clemente International Dual Language School, Bottom Left: Waterbury Arts Magnet (K-12 School), Bottom Right: Washington Elementary School. (Photo Credits Schools Websites).

## EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE: 5TH DISTRICT HAS TWO SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

Three Waterbury public schools were named Schools of Distinction by the Connecticut State Department of Education for the 2024–2025 school year: F.J. Kingsbury Elementary, Roberto Clemente International Dual Language School, and Washington Elementary School. All three received the High Growth distinction, celebrating their



academic progress and achievement. Of special pride to the 5th District, both Roberto Clemente and Washington Elementary are located in our district, highlighting the high quality of public education available to families here. These schools provide strong foundations for learning, innovative programs, and supportive environments that empower

students to succeed. This recognition reflects the dedication of teachers, staff, students, and families who work tirelessly to achieve excellence. The 5th District Aldermen congratulate the schools on this well-deserved honor and reaffirm their commitment to supporting public education, ensuring our district continues to lead in opportunity and achievement for all students.



## 5TH DISTRICT ALDERS CALL FOR A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF ED & BOARD OF ALDERMAN

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

At the start of this term, Aldermen Rafael Feliciano-Roman, Sandra Martinez-McCarthy, Adrian Sanchez, Kelly Zimmerman, and Joe Grosso proposed a

series of rules changes aimed at strengthening legislative oversight and improving how city business is conducted. One key proposal was the creation of a permanent standing joint committee between the Board of

Education and the Board of Aldermen. The goal: improve communication, clarify agenda items, and strengthen working relationships between the two governing bodies. Under the City Charter and ordinances, the Board of Aldermen has jurisdiction over matters involving payments from the General Fund, approval of the overall education budget, and financial authorizations. At the same time, the Board of Education holds authority over department policy, line-item priorities, and superintendent oversight. When items move from one body to the other, Aldermen are often asked to vote without receiving

supporting documentation or clear summaries of the deliberation and due diligence already completed. Recent legislation exposed these gaps, with a Board of Education commissioner stating that Aldermen should simply “trust” the Board of Education. While trust is important, Aldermen were elected to provide oversight and verification, not rubber-stamp decisions. Past and present administrations have shown a willingness to centralize authority and rush priorities forward without fully including all districts—particularly the 5th District—in meaningful deliberation. Although informal



liaisons exist between the two bodies, their roles are not widely known, and materials are not consistently shared. A permanent joint committee would allow both bodies to review items together, request documentation, discuss concerns openly, and build stronger institutional trust. As the 5th District Alders believe: we seek trust, but we will always verify.



Members of the Waterbury Board of Education on December 1, 2025 during the organizational meeting / swearing in ceremonies at Kennedy High School.



Best Buy will be opening in the former Michael's Craft Store site in the Brass Mill Commons.

## Electronics retailer Best Buy plans to open Waterbury store!

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

Great news for the 5th District and the City of Waterbury: Best Buy is opening at Brass Mill Commons in the former Michaels location. This is a strong vote of confidence in our community and local economy. The 5th District Alders are thrilled about the new retail jobs this will bring, along with expanded shopping options and a boost for nearby businesses. This is a positive step forward for our district and our city.

## BRASS MILL CENTER NEWS

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

The announcement that Best Buy will open a new location at Brass Mill Commons in the former Michaels store is welcome news for the 5th District and the City of Waterbury.

Any new investment and job creation is a positive step forward, and the 5th District Alders are encouraged by the opportunity this brings for local residents and the surrounding business community. At the same time, we

must be honest about the broader challenges facing the mall. The recent departure of Barnes & Noble after nearly three decades, along with reports of more than 100 vacant spaces, highlights the serious issues still impacting the overall

complex. Like malls across the country, Brass Mill is navigating a shifting retail landscape, and progress will not happen overnight.

In that spirit, the 5th District Alders have formally reached out to mall ownership and management to request a meeting and begin a more constructive dialogue. Because this property sits within our district, we want to better understand their long-term vision, offer support, and explore innovative ways to re- envision this vital real estate with intention and purpose for our community's future.

We are also encouraged by efforts such as the new "Music at the Mill" concert series, launching on the 25th from 1-3 p.m., which aims to bring people back to the property and rebuild community connection. While challenges remain, we remain cautiously optimistic and committed to working with the City Administration and mall leadership to help Brass Mill adapt, stabilize, and grow.

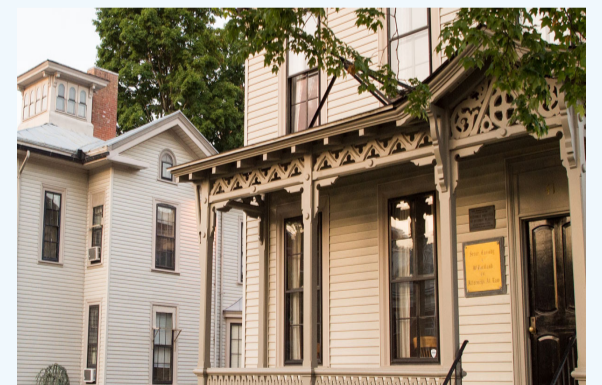
### Small Business Brief

#### CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES

Connecticut Legal Services will celebrated the opening of its new Waterbury office with a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 8th. The new location at 255 Bank Street is closer to the courthouse, provides greater convenience for clients, and supports the organization's continued growth and service to the community. Alders Feliciano-Roman, Martinez-McCarthy and Sanchez wish CT Legal Services best of luck!

#### SECORCASSIDY P.C.

The Waterbury Regional Chamber & Fifth District Aldermen invites you to a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, January 20 at 10 a.m. to mark the unveiling of SecorCassidy, P.C.'s new name/rebrand, located at 41 Church Street in Waterbury. We hope to see you there!

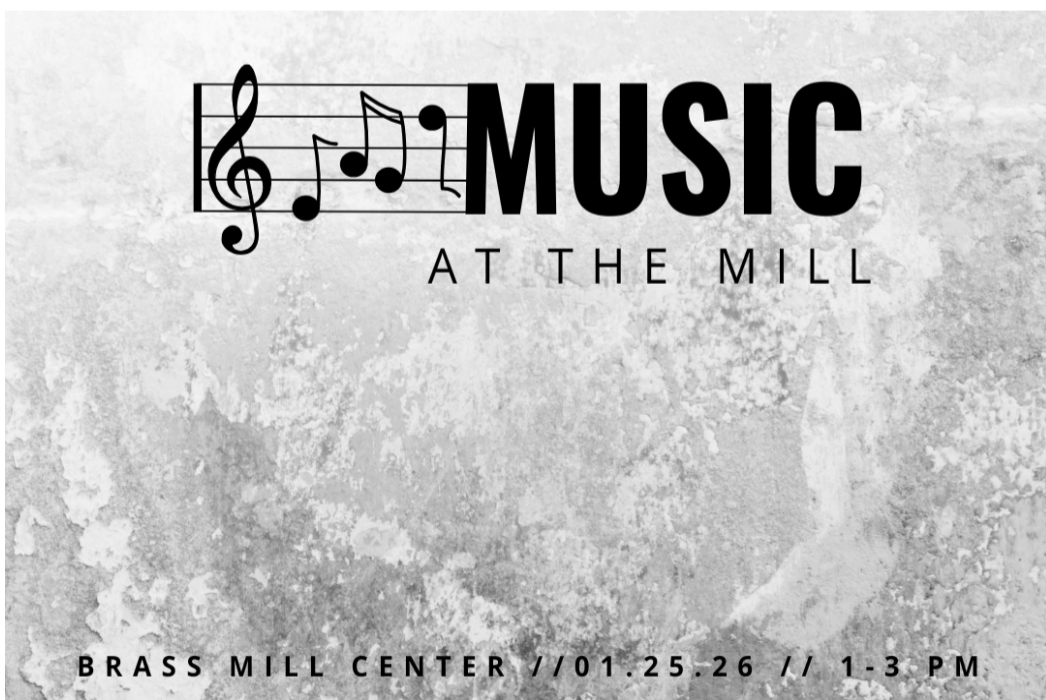


Secor Cassidy PC is a general practice law firm representing clients throughout Connecticut.

### SUBMIT A STORY

#### THE FIFTH DISTRICT VOICE

Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman  
Alderwoman Sandra Martinez-McCarthy  
Alderman Adrian Sanchez  
Neil Ford Jr.  
Brenny Alcantara  
Noah Mejil  
Phone: 860-932-2533  
Email: [aldermanfelicianoroman@waterburyct.org](mailto:aldermanfelicianoroman@waterburyct.org)  
Website: [the5thdistrict.org](http://the5thdistrict.org)



BRASS MILL CENTER // 01.25.26 // 1-3 PM

## WHY 5TH DISTRICT ALDERS WILL MONITOR THE MOU WITH CT MDA

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

The 5th District Alders recently reviewed the proposed MOU with the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority for a major downtown development. While Freight Street in the 1st

District is part of the area catchment, three-quarters of the development lies in the 5th District, directly impacting our residents. Concerns include relaxed parking requirements, potential gentrification, and out-of-town landlords—

issues flagged in the last Waterbury Low Income Housing Plan as risks for low- and moderate-income residents. These are red flags for our community, and we emphasized safeguards to protect affordability and prevent displacement.

Despite these concerns, the Board voted to approve the MOU to allow the project to proceed. We will remain vigilant, monitoring the development to ensure protections, community input, and long-term housing stability in the 5th District.



Carrie Welton Fountain Born in 1842, Carrie died in 1884 while mountain climbing in Colorado. Her will left \$7,000 for the monument and \$100,000 to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA); a cause to which she had already given \$250,000 in 1874. Relatives thought she was insane and contested the will, resulting in a long trial that was covered by the New York Times. On November 10, 1888, Carrie's side prevailed and the fountain was dedicated.

## 2026-2036 CITY OF WATERBURY CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMES INTO FOCUS

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

The 5th District Alders are carefully reviewing Waterbury's 2026–2036 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which outlines goals for economic growth, housing, infrastructure, transportation, and revitalizing the downtown and riverfront areas. While we support its focus on strategic

development and leveraging city assets, the Board of Alders is listed too sparingly as a lead or supporting entity, even though most redevelopment, zoning, and budget decisions must pass through us. Learning from past plans, like the 2015–2025 "Keep the Lights On" initiative that never

came to fruition, highlights how small policy actions can make a big difference. After this review period, the Board will vote to ratify the plan. Residents, businesses, and concerned citizens: how would you like us to vote on this important plan?

## GENTRIFICATION MITIGATION ZONE ORDINANCE

*The Fifth District Voice Staff*

Alderman Rafael Feliciano-Roman has introduced a bold Gentrification Mitigation Zone Ordinance that, if passed, would be the first of its kind in Connecticut. The proposal targets four Opportunity Zones in Waterbury and would require 25% affordable units in new developments, grant tenants the first right to purchase their buildings, and create paths

to limited-equity cooperatives. "This ordinance is about protecting families from displacement and giving residents a real stake in their neighborhoods," Feliciano-Roman said. "It would be transformational for low- and moderate-income Waterbury residents by preserving affordability, stability, and dignity."



Bouley Manor Neighborhood of the City of Waterbury one of the seven neighborhoods that make up the 5th District. The 5th encompasses parts and not the whole of all of these neighborhoods.

### 5TH DISTRICT EATS!

Every edition we as alders will highlight a different restaurant in our district and make a meal recommendation that you should try. Support these 5th District Food Establishments.

#### Sampler + Sweet Iced Tea + Chef Salad

Recommended by: Alderman Feliciano-Roman



#### Grand Street Tavern

142 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT 06702  
Monday - Sunday (Opens at 11:30 am) (203) 527-5272

#### French Onion Soup

Recommended by: Alderwoman Sandra Martinez-McCarthy



#### Signatures Restaurant & Bar

29 Leavenworth Street, Waterbury, CT 06702  
Tuesday - Saturday (Opens at 4:00 pm) (203) 575-1190

#### Tres Golpe Mashed Plantains, Salami, Fried Cheese, and Eggs.

Recommended by: Neil Ford Jr.

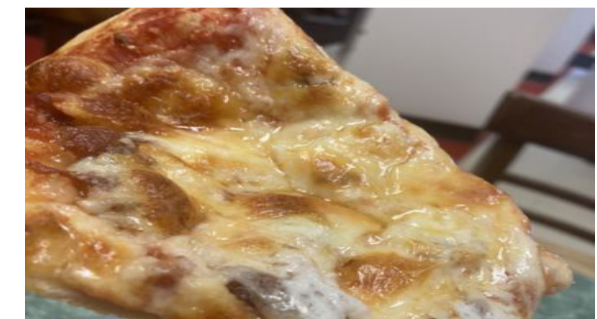


#### VIA AL PARAISO BAR & GRILL

146 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT 06702  
Monday - Sunday (Opens at 10 am) (203) 725-3906

#### Best Pizza Slice in Connecticut & World!

Recommended by: Alderman Feliciano-Roman



#### Domenick & Pia Downtown Pizzeria

3 Brook St, Waterbury, CT 06702  
Tuesday - Saturday (Opens at 10:30 am) (203) 753-3401

**R&B THURSDAYS**

MUSIC POWERED BY  
**DJ SIXFOUR**

- \$3 Green Tea Shots
- \$3 Lemondrop Shots
- \$3 Bud Light Drafts

**THURSDAY JAN 15 | DOORS OPEN AT 9PM**  
142 GRAND STREET, WATERBURY, CT 06702

**Happy Birthday  
Aevin Lee Santiago!  
Alder Feliciano-  
Roman's Nephew!**

*Life can be come super busy and fly  
by family and friends are important!*

*Alderman Feliciano-Roman wanted to wish a Happy 9th Birthday to his  
nephew son of Luis & Lindsay Santiago two amazing parents and friends!*



**Happy 2026! From  
the Mejil, Feliciano,  
and Roman Family!**

*Alderman Feliciano-Roman, spends  
his New Year Eve with his mother,  
grandmother at her house on Wacona Avenue in the 5th District. The  
entire reason for him moving back home is in this one picture! Happy,  
Healthy and Safe New Year to all of you reading this newsletter!*



**Design & Produced  
by: Alderman  
Feliciano-Roman**

*When reading this newsletter know  
that we as Alders get no staff the  
writing is done by the people you see listed on page 18 however all of the design  
and layout were completed by me Alderman Feliciano-Roman because I love  
my district and my City. If you'd like to help reach out.*



**One Call, One Place: 5th District  
Alders Encourage Residents to use 311  
/ iReportWTBY App to report issues**

*Data from 311 & app help guide resources, funding and guide  
legislation and city policy. You can also visit the CSC at City Hall.*

**The Fifth District Voice Staff**

The Citizens Service Center (CSC) is a key resource, and as your 5th District Alders, we want to make sure everyone knows how to use it. 311 & the app provide a centralized location for residents to submit complaints, service requests, and request information about city services.

311 & the app act as a City Hall help desk, answering routine

questions and logging concerns so they can be forwarded to the appropriate city department for action and resolution. This process helps ensure accountability and timely follow-up.

The CSC office is located on the first floor of City Hall and can be reached by calling 311 or 203-597-3444. The information and forms provided through the CSC are not for emergency use. In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.



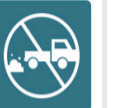
What would you like to report?



Abandoned Vehicles



Graffiti



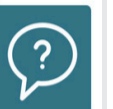
Illegal Dumping



Pothole



Streetlight Outage



Other Issue



Illegal Fireworks



**The Roberto Clemente  
Champions are Back!**

**The Fifth District Voice Staff**

The Waterbury Roberto Clemente 12U All-Stars made history in July 2025 with a remarkable run that united the city and brought immense pride to the South End and the 5th District. The team captured the Little League District 3 Championship with a decisive 9-1

inspiring run ultimately came to an end. Though they fell short of the World Series dream, their impact on Waterbury will be felt for years to come.

With their home field located in the heart of the South End, this is more than a Waterbury team—it is proudly a 5th District team. Hundreds of residents turned out to



Roberto Clemente All Stars District 3 Champions Celebrate their Victory in 2025! Photo Credit: The Waterbury Observer

victory over Seymour, marking Waterbury's first district title in more than 20 years and the city's first tournament win in 17 years. It was a milestone moment not just for the players, but for an entire community that rallied behind them. After winning the district title, the Clemente All-Stars advanced to the Sectional Tournament in Southington, where their

cheer them on, creating a powerful moment of unity and neighborhood pride.

All three 5th District Alders celebrate these young athletes and their families and are encouraging parents to sign up youth for the upcoming season. We are committed to being present, showing support, and investing in the next generation.

**ROBERTO CLEMENTE  
YOUTH BASEBALL LITTLE LEAGUE  
2026 SIGN-UPS!**

**DIVISIONS**

- Pamper Division 5-6
- Minors Division 7-8
- Minors Division 9-10
- Majors Division 11-12
- Seniors Division 13-16
- Girls Majors 9-12

**CLICK THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!**

**REGISTRATION OPENS JAN 15 THROUGH APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**VIC CUEVAS**  
**203 437 5772 rcyblwtby21@gmail.com**

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06706

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