

CITY OF STAMFORD

FIRST 100 DAYS

REPORT



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Letter From the Mayor

Dear Stamford Residents,

One hundred days ago, I had the privilege of being sworn in as the Mayor of Stamford. On my first day, I outlined a vision to build a city that is equitable, inclusive, innovative, and a place where everyone can thrive.

Assuming office during the COVID-19 pandemic has not been easy, but thanks to the City's outstanding public servants, first responders, state delegation, community leaders, and residents, we were able to work toward fulfilling those goals.

My administration has focused on bringing a fresh perspective to some of Stamford's pressing challenges, including fixing our infrastructure, enhancing education, advancing economic prosperity, making Stamford more affordable, protecting our environment, and improving government responsiveness and constituent services.

As I reflect on the tremendous work and effort from our first 100 days, I want to thank you for trusting me to lead our great City. Please know that I have an open-door policy, and I invite you to contact me with any questions or concerns you have. You can reach me at mayorsoffice@stamfordct.gov.

I cannot wait to see what we accomplish together in the next four years.

Sincerely,



Mayor Caroline Simmons

New Administration

When I assumed office, my immediate priority was putting together a talented team that will work hard every day on behalf of Stamford residents. I am extremely proud of the individuals who have joined my Cabinet and Mayor's office and we look forward to working together to execute on our vision for creating an inclusive, equitable, and innovative City.

Cabinet

Caroline Simmons, Mayor
Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff
Doug Dalena, Director of Legal Affairs
Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration
Carmen Hughes, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety
Loren Nadres, Director of Economic Development
Matt Quinones, Director of Operations
Izzy Sobkowski, Chief Information Officer

Mayor's Office

Val Pankosky, Senior Executive Assistant
Cynthia Caban-Register, Executive Secretary
Kathy Ruther, Executive Secretary, Public Safety, Health and Welfare
Janeene Freeman, Special Assistant to the Mayor for Community Partnerships and Engagement
Lauren Meyer, Special Assistant to the Mayor & Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Leah Kagan, Special Assistant to the Mayor for Economic Development
Aaron Miller, Special Assistant to the Mayor for Communications

Advancing Economic Prosperity and Making Stamford More Affordable and Equitable

Making the City of Stamford an affordable and equitable place means investing in areas that strengthen our community and boost our local economy. We have laid the groundwork to work to alleviate the rising cost of living for our most vulnerable populations, support local businesses and launch robust economic development initiatives.

Making Stamford More Affordable

- ✓ **Expanded the Senior Citizen Property Tax Credit for the first time since 2015** to provide property tax relief for seniors by expanding eligibility and increasing the credit amount to keep pace with inflation.
- ✓ **Created an Affordable Housing Council** that will provide guidance to the Mayor on key issues impacting housing.
- ✓ **Submitted a \$638 million budget** to the Board of Representatives and Board of Finance that commits to long-term fiscal sustainability while limiting the proposed city tax increase under 1% without cutting services or community programs.

Advancing Economic Prosperity

- ✓ **Submitted the Innovation Corridor grant which could secure \$50 million** in state funding for the creation of a leading fintech university in Stamford and has the potential to create 15,000 jobs and a tech talent pipeline.
- ✓ **Launched the Mayor's Business Roundtable** with Stamford's largest 20 employers to open lines of communications and discuss the importance of job training, and marketing our city to attract more people, businesses, and innovation.
- ✓ **Hired a new Economic Development Director and added a new Special Assistant for Economic Development** to ensure the Office of Economic Development is bolstered to support small and large businesses, entrepreneurs, and job growth.
- ✓ **Initiated the Community Development Block Grant process** which will allocate approximately \$1,000,000 in federal funding to community-based organizations.
- ✓ **Submitted an ordinance to the Board of Representatives** to establish an outdoor "streatery."

Enhancing Support for Education

- ✓ Worked collaboratively with the Superintendent's Office to successfully get **Westhill High School** on this year's state school construction priority list, which will provide funding to build a new high school.
- ✓ Convened a meeting with the Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood Education to discuss **advancing universal pre-K and early childhood initiatives** in Stamford.
- ✓ Conducted community engagement related to the **Long-Term School Facilities Plan** in coordination with the Board of Education.



- ✓ **Dedicated 20% of our capital budget to school facility improvements**, including improving indoor air quality, and replacing roofs and boilers to give our students and teachers quality buildings that they deserve.

Investing in our Infrastructure and Quality of Life

Investing in our infrastructure is vital to our economy, public safety, and quality of life. We are prioritizing fixing our roads, sidewalks, parks and bridges, while simultaneously working to make our infrastructure more sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Investing in our Roads, Bridges, and Sidewalks

- ✓ Finalized the **“Pave Stamford” Initiative**, which will double the amount of road paving and sidewalk construction in the coming years.
- ✓ **Enhanced city funding for roads, sidewalks, parks, and bridges** in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget.
- ✓ **Secured over \$10 million in state bonding and grants** for road repairs, park improvements, and other capital projects.
- ✓ Began extensive community engagement with residents, businesses, and nonprofit leaders to hear their input on the **West Main Street Bridge**.
- ✓ Developed a **priority project plan** for federal infrastructure funding.
- ✓ **Secured \$2 million in federal funding for the Safe Route to Schools** program to improve walkability and safety around our schools.

Creating a More Sustainable and Resilient City

- ✓ **Created the city’s first Mayor’s Climate Council** which will provide guidance to the Mayor on issues related to reducing Stamford’s carbon footprint, incorporating environmental justice, equity, and sustainability throughout City operations, making Stamford more resilient to the impacts of climate change, supporting the creation of green energy jobs, and preserving clean air and water.
- ✓ **Issued the City’s first comprehensive renewable energy RFP** to solarize municipal and school buildings to an effort to reduce the City’s carbon footprint and save taxpayer dollars.
- ✓ **Installed ten air quality monitors** across the City to detect where air quality improvements are needed.
- ✓ **Invested in resiliency projects** in the Fiscal Year 2022–2023 capital budget, including \$2,000,000 for storm drain upgrades and \$500,000 for the first city-wide drainage study.
- ✓ **Secured a federal grant to launch a pilot compost program** at the Bartlett Arboretum.

Making Government Work Better for Residents

My administration is striving to make our government more responsive, transparent, and accountable to the people of Stamford. Our administration prides itself on community engagement and hearing firsthand how we can better serve residents.

Strengthening Citizen Services

- ✓ **Launched a new Constituent Service Hub program** to make government services more accessible and to hear directly from residents on how we can better serve them.
- ✓ **Doubled investment in Information Technology and cybersecurity** with additional positions and digital infrastructure support in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget in an effort to make city government more efficient and secure.
- ✓ **Enhanced online accessibility of the Citizens Services Office** to improve delivery of services to residents.
- ✓ **Added a new Special Assistant to the Mayor for Community Partnerships** focused exclusively on community engagement.
- ✓ **Held the first city-wide Diaper Drive**, which collected hundreds of diapers, baby wipes, formula, and clothing for Stamford newborns and families.
- ✓ **Launched an internal working group** to reform the special events permit process.

Public Health & Safety

- ✓ Implemented public health mitigation measures in response to COVID-19, including **doubling the amount of testing and masks available for the public.**
- ✓ **Created a new mental health resource page** on the City's website.
- ✓ **Convened the City's first cybersecurity tabletop exercise** to bolster the City's cyber defenses.
- ✓ **Secured a \$550,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant** to provide greater mental health support within the Stamford Police Department.
- ✓ **Held a Maternal Mental Health Forum** with Stamford Health and maternal health stakeholders across Stamford.