

DRAFT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD (MARB)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Hartford Subcommittee of the MARB

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, July 22, 2021 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Location: This was a virtual meeting. Meeting materials may be accessed at the following website:
<https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Marb/West-Haven-Committee-Meetings-and-Materials>

Call-In Instructions:

Telephone Number: (860) 840-2075

Meeting ID: 576 203 207

Members in Attendance: Kimberly Kennison (OPM Secretary designee), Christine Shaw (State Treasurer designee), Mark Waxenberg, Matthew Brokman, Stephen Falcigno (joined after adoption of minutes), Robert White (joined after adoption of minutes)

City Officials in Attendance: Mayor Bronin, Jennifer Hockenhull, Leigh Ann Ralls

OPM Staff in Attendance: Julian Freund

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM.

II. Approval of Minutes:

a. June 24, 2021 regular meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Brokman with a second by Mr. Waxenberg. The motion passed 4-0-0.

III. Review and Discussion: ARPA Funding Overview and City Priorities

An overview of the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act's funding for local governments was provided by Mr. Freund. Mayor Bronin outlined the City's plans for the use of approximately \$112 million in anticipated ARPA funds. He explained that the plans attempt to balance urgent needs in the community with initiatives to build back better, and also noted that additional separate sources of funding for education are available. The City's plan, which was included in the meeting materials, covers eight programmatic and expenditure categories, including Youth Services & Support, Community Safety & Wellness, Business Support & Activation, Housing, Arts & Culture, Economic & Community Development, Critical Infrastructure, and Revenue Replacement. The plan was assembled prior to the interim rule issued by the U.S. Treasury, but the City expects that the extent of its revenue loss under the rule's formula will allow for considerable flexibility in use of the ARPA funds.

Ms. Shaw noted the one-time nature of the ARPA funds and asked about the time horizon for expending their expenditure. Mayor Bronin explained that the plan as proposed is a 3-year expenditure plan, though some of the funds may be expended somewhat beyond that timeframe as long as they are obligated by the end of calendar year 2024. The mayor said that the City takes sustainability of the funding into consideration when allocating the funds. Ms. Shaw said that she hopes the City's efforts to diversify its revenue structure remain on the table.

Mr. Waxenberg said that the general public should have an understanding of the specifics of the funding priorities and the goals of spending. He encouraged reporting on the funds in a way that will allow for readability and oversight. Ms. Kennison noted that the City of Hartford is one of the first to construct a plan for use of the ARPA funding. Mayor Bronin also explained that the City is building procurement, allocation and reporting processes to back up the goals and high-level spending categories presented in the overview.

Mr. Brokman asked about plans for use of ESSER funding available to Hartford Public Schools. Mayor Bronin explained that the funding for education has come through multiple rounds. The school system's funds are being spent primarily for school day, expanded school day, and student support needs. The City's planned uses for youth services are primarily geared for programs and services outside of the school day.

In response to a question regarding how the plan's priorities were determined and how stakeholders were engaged, Mayor Bronin explained that there was a shared recognition that the plan would need to balance immediate, urgent needs with opportunities to build a foundation for the future. Many of the City's specific needs had already been present and previously identified based on years of community engagement and communications.

IV. Review and Discussion: Mitigation Measures Action Plan

Ms. Hockenhull reported on the mitigation measures plan and revisions to the reporting tool that were made in response to the Subcommittee's feedback from the prior meeting. She anticipates having status updates to incorporate into the report for the July meeting. The Subcommittee discussed the City's license plate scanning initiative and a planned RFP for a collection agency to assist with recovering police private duty fees. Mayor Bronin noted that one large receivable for police duty was addressed legislatively. Ms. Kennison encouraged the City to connect with the CT Department of Administrative Services for various procurement resources available to municipalities.

V. Other Related Business

None.

VI. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Falcigno with a second by Mr. White. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.