

PUBLIC COMMENT 6-3-2020

Additional Comments (popped in after 6:30pm)

Before you vote to reduce our Police force by 12 during this time of violent unrest & unprecedented level of robberies, home invasions, murder in Hamden please explain the rationale. We truly would like to know what our elected officials think! All you have to do is review the Ring Camera videos sent to police of hooded Hoodlums (just from Jan-today) running up to private cars in private homes in Hamden & stealing the cars, ransacking and checking door handles to see if is locked. Often escaping in late model cars ...and fine clothes. If by chance they are apprehended, which is rare, they are immediately released to return the next night. I can only assume your plan to again treat Hamden Homeowners as ATM machines & raise the already criminally high property taxes by 10% is to shock the homeowners to decide what's best lose 12 police officers or pony up extra extra moneyexplain why you don't have new business development to help us with taxes....who is in charge of bringing new business to this town...he/she is missing in action. Explain what actions our elected officials will face for so called peaceful protesting at a New Haven police station with hundreds of people & the police, feeling threatened with mob of people took enforcement action. These council members described the incident that New Haven Police brutalized them. How how can we continue to live in a civilized society with no respect for police or homeowners who pay Property taxes.

Thanks.

Mary McLaughlin

Why is the overstaffed Town Clerk department not taking any staff cuts while other understaffed departments are?

Thanks,

Peter Hall

Dear Members of the Legislative Council,

Please adopt across-the-board cuts of a fixed percentage to all departments in order to keep the town's mill rate to 50. Raising the town's mill rate to 52 (or ultimately as high as 54 if mid-year increases are adopted) at a time when residents are dealing with the economic fallout of the pandemic is unconscionable. Let the Mayor and his departments heads figure out how to make 50 mills work. It's their job and they are ones in the position to know how to absorb necessary cuts, not the Legislative Council. If the Mayor's answer is that the town cannot be run on 50 mills, then we should be having some very difficult conversations about state intervention via MARB, Chapter 9 bankruptcy, etc. If the town cannot be run on the money available to it without crippling tax increases, then clearly more serious financial intervention is required.

Thank you for all your efforts,

Bridget Siegert

I would like to propose that the school budget be bolstered by taking money out of the Hamden Police Department budget.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Harvey
Hamden resident

Police cuts?

I say absolutely not, we need every police officer we have .

Laura Mikolinski

Kathrine dr

Dear Legislative Council members--

Our town's situation is dire. We have run out of money without a backup plan. There is nowhere left to look to transfer funds from one pot to another. Similarly, Hamden residents cannot afford for the mill rate to continue to rise year after year as it has been. This leaves you in a difficult position but one that none of you should be surprised by. The work you have done so far is not enough. Almost all of the cuts are being absorbed by the Board of Education. The Board employs individually with contractually required increases, when you flat-fund this department, you are ensuring that important services to all of our children are compromised. You are also aware of the increased burden the current pandemic places on our schools. Your funding reductions will directly impact whether children will be able to return to school, and will likely delay their ability to do so. Your funding reductions will ensure that our students, including and especially those who are not typical learners are unable to get the resources they need. All on the council should know that our teachers were already recently asked to take furlough days in order to prevent layoffs. We cannot continue asking our students to support the poor budgeting of this council and this town this year and historically.

The town should review all non-contractual salaries. This should first include department heads, this council should consider reducing those salaries. The council should rescind the increase granted to the fire chief, if parity is desired, reduce the disparate salary. The town should review all new positions created and funded in the last two years. The council should consider whether there is value-added to these positions. Additionally the council should consider across the board cuts of a certain percentage for every department.

In summary, make more cuts.

Good luck.

Regards,

Jennifer Pope

King St

PLEASE DO NOT RAISE OUR MILL RATE. THE RESIDENTS CANNOT AFFORD WHAT WE PAY NOW. PLEASE FIND WAYS TO CUT BACK ON EXPENSES AND DO NOT DRIVE US INTO BANKRUPTCY.

Dear Members of the Legislative Council,

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Thank you for all your efforts,

Kind regards,

Deb and Rob Shaffery

Leatherman Trail

Hamden, CT 06518

That is ridiculous to cut 12 police officers. The way our country is, we need every officer . There are other positions you can cut for the budget.

Patti Perrelli

Please consider fully funding the budget for the Board of Education this year more than other year we need the money equity preparedness and continuity are the reasons I support the Board of Education budget the importance of preparation in this extent of what we will need this year was never considered before the COVID-19 pandemic preparing our schools to see if we have students family and staff returned to the buildings can only be done if we are able to have the necessary supplies and staff in place as we look forward to returning to school we need to have the continuity of all our staff members in place the familiar faces the helping hands and behind the scene workers who contribute to the Day by Day functions Of school they all provide a safe and secure environment for our children please fully fund the board of education budget our students depend on it

Lawrence Cuomo

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Thank you for all your efforts,

Tim Siegert

Now with the criminal activity going on in our town seems to me we need our P.D. Force Just the way it is...our taxes our really high & we should at least have an adequate amount of officers on the job!

Denise Bogiatzopoulos