



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

## City of Middletown

CONNECTICUT 06457

SEBASTIAN N. GIULIANO  
MAYOR

**Office of the Mayor  
City of Middletown, Middletown Connecticut**

## PRESS RELEASE

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The Mayor and his budget team began meetings this week with City Department Heads to discuss budget submittals for the 2010-11 Fiscal Year. Each Department Head will formally discuss the needs of his/her department in detail. "This is the way I did it my first year in office", the Mayor stated. Since then, each director had been given the option of having a face-to-face meeting with the budget team, which consists of the Mayor, the Finance Director, the Deputy Finance Director, the Chief Management Analyst, and the Mayor's Administrative Assistant, or submitting his or her proposed budget in writing and having it reviewed by the team. This process represents a return to the original method.

"Not that there was ever a lack of communication with the departments. We have never prepared a budget in a vacuum; there was a constant back-and-forth, give-and-take process with the directors, right up to the point the proposed budget was published. Notwithstanding this initial formal meeting, I expect that the same fine-tuning process will go on this time as well. And the directors all understand that they can come up to my office and let me know if they don't like the direction in which their budgets may be going – this is an opportunity that they rarely pass up", the Mayor noted. "Quite often,

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we are able to adjust the budget based upon their continued input. I have never finalized a department's budget without giving the director one last opportunity to comment."

The Mayor will conclude his meetings on Thursday, February 11, 2010, when he will promptly begin to scrutinize the budget line by line. His budget is due to the Common Council on April 1, 2010. "The Governor's budget, scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, will give us a clearer picture of the State aid that will be provided to Middletown," the Mayor stated. "However, given the state budget crisis, I am not optimistic that municipal aid will be funded at levels that will even come close to closing what appears to be a gap of approximately \$6 million. Additionally, early indications suggest there is little to no growth in the Grand List," he added.

To add to the lack of new revenue, the budget adopted by the Democratically-controlled Council last spring has significant financial shortfalls that will impact this year's budget. "Although the cards are stacked against us, we will do our best to limit the financial burden on our taxpayers," the Mayor offered.

The Council will hold its own workshops with Department Heads during the month of April and must adopt a City budget by May 15, 2010.