



COMMON COUNCIL OFFICE

**245 deKoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457**

860 344-3442

PRESS RELEASE:

For Immediate Release

FROM: The Common Council Office

CONTACTS: Ronald P. Klattenberg
Philip J. Pessina

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On November 17, 2009, the Common Council adopted new rules for the conduct of its business at regularly scheduled Common Council meetings. One new provision to the rules removed the agenda item entitled, "public hearing on non-agenda items" whereby the public could address the council on any issues of concern. Because of the growing length of council meetings, this item occurred late in the evening. The public has expressed frustration by having to wait an inordinate amount of time before having the opportunity to speak. The Council has decided they needed to get out into the community to hear citizens' issues and concerns. With the success of the Community Conversations sponsored by the Russell Library and citizen volunteers in January, the Council will now hold meetings outside of the Council Chamber at various locations in the City to make it easier for the public to participate during the next year.

The Council members anticipate this new move, to city-wide locations, will encourage public involvement. Because of the structure of the meetings in the past, the public who spoke had little or no feedback from the City. The Common Council will be noting the topics raised at the community meetings and forwarding those items to appropriate Council Committees and/or the Mayor's Office for follow-up. The objective of these meetings is to encourage broad public participation in the form of presenting their concerns and ideas to the Common Council for referral to the appropriate City department or Committee for future action. This will make local government more accessible and find new ways to improve Middletown's economy and services.

The Community Public Meeting Schedule for the Common Council has been set for the coming year. The Council rules state each member of the public will have ten minutes to address the Council with their concerns. The first meeting will be held on January 12, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Media Center of Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Hunting Hill Avenue. The meeting dates for the year are as follows:

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|--|----------|--------|--------------|-----------------|
| January 12, 2010 | Tuesday | 7 p.m. | WWMS | Media Center |
| February 9, 2010 | Tuesday | 7 p.m. | MHS | Media Center |
| March 9, 2010 | Tuesday | 7 p.m. | Macdonough | Gym |
| April 13, 2010 | Tuesday | 7 p.m. | South Fire | Community Rm |
| May 13, 2010 | Thursday | 7 p.m. | Moody School | Gym |
| June 10, 2010 | Thursday | 7 p.m. | MHS | Media Center |
| July 8, 2010 | Thursday | 7 p.m. | City Hall | Council Chamber |
| August 12, 2010 | Thursday | 7 p.m. | South Fire | Community Rm |
| September 9, 2010 | Thursday | 7 p.m. | Macdonough | Gym |
| October 14, 2010 | Thursday | 7 p.m. | Moody School | Gym |
| November 9, 2010 (November 11 is a Holiday) | Tuesday | 7 p.m. | Snow | Auditorium |
| December 9, 2010 | Thursday | 7 p.m. | City Hall | Council Chamber |

WWMS – Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Hunting Hill Avenue
MHS – Middletown High School, LaRosa Lane
Macdonough Elementary School, 66 Spring Street
South Fire District Fire House, 445 Randolph Road

Moody Elementary School, 300 Country Club Road
Snow Elementary School, 299 Wadsworth Street
City Hall Council Chamber, 245 deKoven Drive

The meetings will be advertised during the year with the hope that many citizens will take advantage of these opportunities to express their ideas and concerns. Should the public have questions or concerns regarding these meetings they should contact Councilman Ron Klattenberg, Democratic Deputy Majority Leader or Councilman Phil Pessina, Republican Minority Leader through the City Hall Council Office, 860.344-3442.