

**Office of the Mayor
City of Middletown**

**245 deKoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457**

PRESS RELEASE

DEMS CHOOSE PARTISAN POLITICS OVER BUDGET SOLUTIONS

Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano expressed his disappointment with the Democratic Council Caucus after they backed-out of a scheduled roundtable discussion with the Board of Education members, the Finance and Personnel Directors and Union Leaders.

“This exercise was arranged after a meeting last week among representatives of the Council, the Board of Education and the City administration to address the challenges the City will face during the upcoming budget process. Instead of offering solutions, they would rather hide in the bushes and watch; this way they won’t lose their opportunity to criticize.” said the Mayor. Faced with a potential \$10+ million dollar budget gap in the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the Mayor, all four City union leadership teams, the Board of Education and its various union leaders and City Council had set the unprecedented meeting for Friday, January 30 to discuss options.

“I saw this as an opportunity to begin a candid discussion and as a way to educate everyone on the size and impact of the cuts the State will impose on cities and towns. The State’s woes will more than trickle down; it will feel like a waterfall crashing down on us.” said Giuliano.

Giuliano said the informal meeting would still go forward and urged the 4 Republicans to attend and the 8 Democrats to reconsider their stance. Democratic Council leaders informed the Mayor’s Office on Tuesday morning that they would not participate in the planned session.

Giuliano said, “The Dems are constantly talking a good game about fiscal responsibility. All I have heard from them is how concerned they are with the ‘dire economic conditions’ and how we’re facing ‘the worst economy since the Great Depression’. But when they actually have the chance to have everyone in one room and to be part of the solution, the Dem caucus has voted to pass. I guess they’re not about to let a fiscal crisis get in the way of politics. I know it will be a very tough, candid and frank exchange but, given the situation, it’s a discussion we have to have.”