



UPPER ALBANY MONTHLY MEETING  
March 3, 2025 | Via Zoom

Attendees:

Yackecha Dickenson, President; F. Graves, Hartford Fire Department; Jazna Stannard, ED, Hartford Next; Capt. Michael Coates, Hartford Police Department; Doris Johnson, CT DEEP; Petrel Maylor, DDS; Officer Dave Budhoo, Hartford Police Department; Shirley Surgeon, Hartford Common Council; Shari [last name]; Luis Ruiz, CCMC; Officer Michael Jobes, Hartford Police Dept; Taquisha Ramos-Huff; Sharon Cheek, Chief Zoning Administrator; Buster Jenkins; Cherrell Banks, BHCA; Beverly [last name]; Brenda Watson; Rebekah Castagno; Alessandra Ballestras, Office of Community Engagement; Kerri-Kay Allen; Raegan Byrd, BHCA; Kelvin Lovejoy, BHCA; Larry Williams, Resident; Marilyn Risi. WECA NRZ; Luz Holmes, BHCA; Rose [last name]; Anthony Waite, Resident; Kim Gauthier, Hartford Next

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

Officer Dave Budhoo, Hartford Police Department

Officer Budhoo provided an overview of ComStat numbers for February. Reminder to residents, do not leave cars running to warm up or for a short time. This creates a crime of opportunity. Residents can still get a steering wheel lock from HPD.

Lt. F. Graves, Hartford Fire Department

Lt. Graves reviewed the statistics for February. She noted there were three fatal fires in the city during February and four fires in Upper Albany.

- 99 Spring Street. Large apt. building. 1 civilian fatality. Displaced (10). Cause: improper disposal of smoking material
  - 45 Fenwick Street. 1 civilian fatality. Displaced (19). Cause: washing machine
  - 147 Whitney Street, three-family house. 1 civilian fatality, Displaced (3). Cause: under investigation
- Contact: [Gravf001@hartford.gov](mailto:Gravf001@hartford.gov) 860-757-4525 / 860-761-4268

For free smoke alarms and installation (up to 3 per house). Call Lt. F. Graves for appointment.

Alessandra Ballestras, Office of Community Engagement, Mayor's Office

Alessandra shared information about upcoming city events.

- Love Your Block. Applications opened on February 14<sup>th</sup> and will end on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Individuals are eligible for a \$2,500 grant or a nonprofit is eligible for up to \$25,000
- Neighborhood Investment Fund. The Small Business office would like input from the community about businesses/spaces for the investment. Community Input Form: <https://tinyurl.com/NIFcommunityinput>  
Paige Berschet - City of Hartford Small Business Director  
Office: (860) 757-9048 E-mail: [Paige.Berschet@hartford.gov](mailto:Paige.Berschet@hartford.gov)
- Community Meeting regarding the selection of a new police chief is on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2550 Main Street, Hartford.

Sharon Cheeks, Planning & Zoning

No new applications from Upper Albany. Two applications with Historic Preservation and five applications for zoning verification and accessory structures. Sharon provided information about the Bus Stop Enhancements program beginning around the city. There are 169 stops citywide that may be eligible for replacement or rehab. Stops with no shelters will be in the first phase of the program.

Shirley Surgeon, President, Hartford City Council

Councilwoman Surgeon provided additional detail about the Neighborhood Investment Fund Program which has funding available to help commercial property and small business owners make improvements to existing businesses and build storefronts. Eligible areas are Albany Avenue, North Main, Park Street (between Main Street and Park Terrace), Maple Street, Wethersfield Avenue, and Franklin Avenue.

The Small Business office would like input from the community about businesses/spaces for the investment. Community Input Form: <https://tinyurl.com/NIFcommunityinput>

For more information, contact Paige Berschet - City of Hartford Small Business Director  
Office: (860) 757-9048 E-mail: [Paige.Berschet@hartford.gov](mailto:Paige.Berschet@hartford.gov)

Kelvin LoveJoy, BHCA

Raegan Byrd, BHCA

Raegan gave an update about the \_\_\_\_\_ program

The next Upper Albany meeting is Monday, April 7, 2025. It is a Zoom only meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Submitted by Kim Gauthier, Hartford Next

Approved by Upper Albany Board on \_\_\_\_\_