



UPPER ALBANY MONTHLY MEETING

February 3, 2025 | Via Zoom

Attendees: Yackecha Dickenson, President; Vicki Gallon-Clark, BHCA; Dave Budhoo; Larry Williams; Ralph Knighton; Rose [last name]; Sherman Bowens; Lt. Graves, Hartford Fire Dept.; Andrene Bent-Campbell, Office of Community Engagement; Buster Jenkins; E. Savage; Cherell Banks, BHCA; Michael Coates, Hartford Police Dept.; Marion Griffin, Hartford Next; Paige Berschet, Director of Small Business; Shari [last name]; Rhonda Leonard, MOUTH; Kerri-Kay Allen; Petrel Maylor, Mayor's Office; Grace Yi, Planning & Zoning; Michael Jobes, Hartford Police Dept.; Raegan Byrd, BHCA; Eboné M Locket, Harvesting; Taquisha [last name]; Luis Ruiz, CCMC; Jazna Stannard, Hartford Next; Doris [last name]; Denise Best; K. Lovejoy, BHCA; Queen [last name]; Anthony Waite; Rebekah Castagno; Brenda Watson, North Hartford; Kim Gauthier, Hartford Next

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Lt. Graves, Hartford Fire Department

Lt. Graves read the citywide and Upper Albany statistics for January.

Fires of note:

- 277 Wethersfield Avenue. Seven-unit Building, 2-alarm fire. 26 people displaced. Cause: electrical malfunction in a bedroom
- 45 Tower Avenue. Elderly Housing Complex. 1 person transported to hospital. 16 people displaced. Cause: likely improper disposal of smoking materials
- 225 Ward Street. Three-unit building. 2-alarm fire. Two buildings caught fire 225 and 221. 225 was vacant, 221 was occupied. 20 people displaced. Cause under investigation.
- 138 Main Street. Two-unit building. 16 people displaced. Cause: electrical malfunction in a bedroom.

Fire Marshal's Office

- Keep space heaters on a solid, flat surface, plug them directly into the wall, and keep at least 3 feet from objects that can burn.

Gravf001@hartford.gov

860-757-4525

860-761-4268

Smoke alarm (1, 2, or 3 family (owner occupied)

For free smoke alarms and installation (up to 3 per house)

Andrene Bent-Campbell, Office of Community Engagement, COH

- Andrene gave an overview of upcoming events in Hartford and a report about 311 numbers calls. All 311 calls have been resolved.
- The new City Hall newsletter is biweekly and will be sent this week.
- Reminder that Love Your Block applications open on February 14th.

Grace Yi, Planning & Zoning, COH

Grace provided information about the Bus Shelter Enhancement program. There are an estimated 169 bus shelters around the city eligible for the program. Timeline and a map of the bus shelters eligible are online at safestreets@hartford.gov.

There was one application to the Historic Preservation Commission for changes to 50 Deerfield Avenue – proposed front façade window design change in the Upper Albany National Historic District. Total applications for Upper Albany in January were 4.

Planning & Zoning Commission: <https://hartford.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&id=16900>

Historic Preservation Commission: <https://hartford.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&id=16911>

Paige Berschet, Director, Small Business

Paige introduced 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>

Paige Berschet - City of Hartford Small Business Director

Office: (860) 757-9048 E-mail: Paige.Berschet@hartford.gov

Vicki Gallon-Clark & Ralph Knighton, Blue Hills Civic Association

Vicki and Ralph talked about the plans for the new building, the Neighborhood Community Development Center. The Center will provide services for youth to help with job skills, resume writing, interviewing, and more. The workspace is designed to be a hub for the neighborhood to improve to improve homeownership and financial literacy.

Kerri-Kay Allen, Hartford City Mission

Kerri-Kay spoke briefly about the Hartford City Mission and programs available. For more information, contact Kerri-Kay at kerri-kay@hartfordcitymission.org, 959-204-0445.

Keisha asked for a motion to approve minutes for October, November and January. Motion was made by Larry Williams, seconded by Anthony Waite. No questions or abstentions. Motion passed.

Motion for board reappointments will be made at the March meeting.

The meeting ended at 6:42 p.m.

The next meeting is Monday, March 3, 2025. It is a Zoom only meeting.

Submitted by Kim Gauthier, Hartford Next

Approved by Upper Albany Board on _____