



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Middletown
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Daniel T. Drew
MAYOR

With every challenge comes opportunity. Though the last several years have presented a multitude of challenges, we've risen as a community to meet those challenges, seize opportunity, and to persevere and thrive in so many ways.

A few months ago, the Hartford Business Journal, in an article titled *Surging Middletown has Middlesex County in Tow* recognized us as a regional leader with a booming economy and job growth rate twice the statewide average and referred to Middletown as "a little gold gem."

The reason we have been so successful is that we have a wonderful community in which there is a grassroots approach to economic development, to governing, and that we understand that this approach is what makes the economy grow in a way that increases prosperity for all.

I am proud to submit a budget that I believe reflects these values; *there are no tax increases in this budget and it reduces Middletown fire taxes by 2.7 percent*. It provides improved services for the public, including full funding of the Board of Education while also establishing a strong foundation for the community's fiscal health in future years. We have been able to do this by budgeting well each year and focusing on aggressive economic development.

As an example, national building parts supplier WinWholesale in May made an \$11 million investment in Middletown by building a 250,000-square-foot distribution

center with hundreds of new jobs which will generate \$300,000 in revenue annually; revenue from this one business alone will offset residential taxpayers' bills by a tenth of a mil. The more similar projects we carry out, the more we can alleviate the burden on local taxpayers while continuing to provide high-quality public services. Earlier this year, our community secured a longtime goal — the development of market-rate residential housing downtown, which will add an empty property to the tax rolls and generate even more economic activity. I could list many more examples of other, similar success stories. These projects and others like them on which we're now working are tremendously important because they generate the income and jobs that enable us to provide robust public services, one of which is an excellent school district.

This budget will enable the Board of Education to accomplish all of the goals they set forth in their budget request while being able to add teachers to address class size goals. The board's original budget included an early, estimated insurance payment \$2 million higher than actual costs. Therefore, the board's original budget request less these costs is \$2.3 million, which is an increase of 3.02 percent over the current year.

We have provided in this budget tax relief to the people, strong public schools, robust fire and police departments, and well-maintained infrastructure.

I believe that the darkest days of the Great Recession are behind us and that Middletown is leading the way toward an even brighter future — one in which our community continues to achieve great things by focusing on the fact that, by building our economy together from the bottom-up, the blessings of a fruitful life will follow for more people than ever before. Together, we will continue to move

forward in achieving high-quality education, economic opportunity, and the public's safety as we pursue a future of unlimited potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.