

To: The Honorable Board of Finance
From: Benjamin G. Blake, Mayor
Date: January 23, 2019
Subject: GENERAL BUDGET for FY July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

In accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of the Charter of the City of Milford, I respectfully submit, herewith, the general government portion of the City budget for fiscal year 2019-2020.

With the help of this entire community, Milford continues to thrive. Our city employees, department heads, volunteers, political leaders, and an entire village of contributors have all worked diligently to seize upon opportunities which ensure exceptional city services, unparalleled public safety and extraordinary schools.

Notably, new business continues to skyrocket as we outpace all other Connecticut towns and cities. This past year alone, we have had 465 new businesses make Milford home. A tidal wave of economic development has helped grow our tax base to over \$6.7 billion; we now have the largest Grand List in New Haven County and one of the top in the State.

All of this expansion has benefited Milford's bottom line, supporting the overall budget. Taxpayers have now experienced back-to-back-to-back tax cuts - three consecutive decreases in the amount of local taxes due; no other town in the State can boast this experience.

And while commercial growth is a big part of our fiscal success, our path toward prosperity remains grounded in our drive for efficiency. Our workforce is leaner than ever and we work very hard to streamline city operations through good old fashioned Yankee thrift and common sense.

Indeed, we are proud of Milford's accomplishments: a tax rate that is fair with excellent services; pristine parks, beaches, and open spaces that enhance quality of life for all; and, a progressive optimism that turns potential problems into possibilities while pushing us all to work for a better, stronger, more innovative community. As we continue along this trajectory, we are also sure to safeguard the traditions, heritage, history, and attributes that make Milford the envy of the world.

The proposal presented reflects the prudent framework under which our local budgets have traditionally been structured. At the same time, this financial plan represents a solid investment in a more livable city. I look forward to working with you as we set our sails to powerfully persevere on this journey of discussing, debating, refining, and ultimately adopting a 2019-2020 City of Milford budget. Thank you for your consideration.