

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION**DISTRICT BOARD**

555 Main Street

Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Monday, February 2, 2026

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Alberto Cortes, William DiBella, David Drake, John Gale, Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile, Gary Johnson, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic Pane, Chris Tierinni, Calixto Torres, James Woulfe and District Chairman Donald Currey (19)

REMOTE

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Christian Hoheb, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi and Alvin Taylor (4)

ABSENT:

Commissioners Kyle Anderson, Avery Buell, Richard Bush, Dimple Desai, James Healy, Mary LaChance, Michael Maniscalco, Edwin Vargas and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (9)

ALSO**PRESENT:**

Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Jonathan Perugini, Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Finance
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering
Dave Rutty, Director of Operations
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems (Remote Attendance)
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Victoria Escoriza, Assistant Administrative Officer and Special Assistant
Nick Salemi, Communications Administrator
Diana Phay, Treasury Manager
Nefertere Whittingham, Risk Management Administrator
Debbie Sayasith, Senior Administrative Analyst
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Services
Josh Tryon, Business Systems and Security Administrator
Christopher Taveras, Network Analyst
William Pallis, Manager of Information Systems (Remote Attendance)
Rita Kelley, Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance Officer
Scott Larose, Electrical Maintenance Supervisor (Remote Attendance)
Julie Price, Executive Assistant
Evan Allard, Director, Connecticut Intelligence Center
Jonathan Hale, Intelligence Analyst, Connecticut Intelligence Center
Kevin Sullivan, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Dylan Pecego, Helpdesk Coordinator (Remote Attendance)
Elizabeth Tavelli, Independent Consumer Advocate

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Currey called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

Victoria Escoriza called the roll and informed the Chairman that a quorum of the Commission was present, and the meeting was declared a legal meeting of the District Board of The Metropolitan District of Hartford County, Connecticut.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2026

On motion made by Commissioner Adil and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of January 12, 2026 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Alma Elder, member of 3rd Act, began to speak, although she did not have comments relative to agenda items.

INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE COMMENTS & QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Independent Consumer Advocate Elizabeth Tavelli did not have any comments or questions.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

District Chairman Currey stated that the Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee, Committee on MDC Government and Bureau of Public Works have met and elected a chairperson and vice chairperson for their respective committees.

REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison stated that last week we received \$51 million from the State of Connecticut DEEP for the South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel change order.

Scott congratulated Jeff Bowers, Manager of Wastewater Treatment, who received the Alfred E. Peloquin Award from NEWEA. Scott stated that the Strategic Planning Committee will meet on February 25th to provide an update on the Effective Utility Management (EUM) self-assessment.

Scott spoke with Chairwoman Magnan of Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee to further discuss looking annual spending through Anthem, looking for ways to save money on pharmaceuticals, and looking for the ability for employees to declare life changing events in order to change their medical plans after retirement. This would require a policy through the Board. Two unions are up for negotiations, and negotiations will begin in February. Commissioner Torres was previously appointed by Chairman Currey to the negotiating committee.

Scott also discussed that SAP was upgraded in 2016 through 2020, and it's time to upgrade again. Business Transformation roles were previously part-time roles, but there are now full-time positions approved for the next upgrade and have a full-time team working on Business Transformation.

Scott stated that we received CHRO approval for 15 years in row, and thanked Rita Kelley for doing a great job. He also provided an overview of the OSHA recordable injury trends over the last twenty years. He said the OSHA report was submitted to the state.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

District Counsel Christopher Stone discussed the termination of our relationship with the US Army Corps of Engineers at the Colebrook reservoir dam. We've worked through the accounting of monies claimed to be owed by the Army Corps, and after negotiations there was a proposed amendment to the contract. The MDC finance department put in hard work to determine the amount owed. We had budgeted \$800,000 and the number arrived at was \$120,000 less than that and within budget. We secured a commitment from the Army Corps that the dollar amount will not change.

Attorney Stone stated that we continue negotiating with the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy in exchange for an easement over our watershed land. We agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and there is a lot of land and parcels involved in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. A final version was sent to the land conservancy on December 4, 2025 and hope to hear back by March. It remains pending.

Attorney Stone also provided information on the landfill cases. The agreement of Capitol Region Development Authority (CRDA) MOU is not yet approved, but should hopefully be brought to the March District Board Meeting. He also provided information regarding a claim from a sinkhole, and that he was able to settle the case for \$4,500, which is under the \$5,000 authority limit.

Attorney Stone also reported that there was a surplus from the 2025 legal budget.

**PRESENTATION FROM DIRECTOR OF CT INTELLIGENCE CENTER ON
CYBERSECURITY THREAT VOLT TYPHOON**

Evan Allard, Director of Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) and Jonathan Hale, Intelligence Analyst of CTIC provided a presentation on cybersecurity threat volt typhoon.

Director of Information Services Robert Schwarm, Business Systems Analyst and Security Administrator Josh Tryon and Network Analyst Christopher Taveras provided a presentation on threat intelligence.

Without objection, agenda item #11 “Approval of Capitol Region Development Authority agreement for Bushnell South Redevelopment, Hartford” was withdrawn from the agenda.

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS**

To: District Board

February 2, 2026

From: Committee on MDC Government

Over the past year, the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. (Attorney Brendan Fox), Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC (Janice Flemming) and Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC (Michael Christ) have provided exemplary service in the area of government relations and advocacy within state government on behalf of the District, and the same holds true for Squire Patton Boggs (William Schuster) and SJB Strategies, LLC (Attorney Stephen Bonafonte) on the federal level. Staff recommends the appointment of the same lobbying team for 2026. With the exception of Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, the term of the appointments would be from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. As to Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, the term of its appointment would be from February 1, 2026 to May 31, 2026, all subject to Board approval.

Furthermore, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for state legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc., \$69,000.00, (2) Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, \$14,000.00 and (3) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC, \$66,000.00.

On the Federal level, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees: (1) Squire Patton Boggs, \$150,000.00; and (2) SJB Strategies, LLC, \$95,000.00.

At a meeting of the Committee on MDC Government held on January 28, it was:

Voted: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

Resolved: That the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC be retained to perform state lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, and the firm of Levin, Paolino, and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, shall be retained for the period from February 1, 2026 through May 31, 2026. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$69,000.00, Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC will receive \$14,000.00, and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$66,000.00, all subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel, may specify.

Further

Resolved: That the firms of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies, LLC be retained to perform federal lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2026 and terminating on December 31, 2026. Squire Patton Boggs will receive \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$95,000.00, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel may specify.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

On motion made by Commissioner Bazzano and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

2026 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Commissioner Bazzano, Chairman of the Committee on MDC Government, stated that the 2026 legislative initiatives were discussed at the Committee on MDC Government meeting of January 28, 2026, and that the lobbyists and consultants will be invited to the upcoming Government Committee meeting for further discussion.

Commissioner Bazzano made a motion to adopt the 2026 legislative initiatives. The motion was duly seconded and adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

**BUREAU OF PUBLIC WORKS
CLOSEOUT OF DORMANT SEWER PETITIONS**

To: District Board

February 2, 2026

From: Bureau of Public Works

At a meeting of the Bureau of Public Works held on January 28, 2026, it was:

VOTED: That the Bureau of Public Works recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Section S10a of the District Ordinances, the attached list of sewer petition requests previously received by the Board and referred to the Bureau of Public Works for study, shall be closed without further action:

Date Received	Project Name	Town
4/5/2004	331 Tunxis Avenue	Bloomfield
11/19/2001	261 Ridgewood Rd	West Hartford
7/1/2001	551 South Main Street	West Hartford
10/18/2001 & 5/20/2013	Evans Road & Laurel Road	Rocky Hill
1/7/2013	201 Stoner Dr	West Hartford
3/19/2012	104 Latimer St	East Hartford
6/28/2004	Shady Brook Drive	West Hartford
8/29/2008	122-132 Wintonbury Avenue	Bloomfield
5/5/2021	536 Prospect Hill Road	Windsor
7/1/2019	377 Simsbury Road	Bloomfield
2/4/2019	6 Victor Street	Bloomfield

FURTHER RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Section S10a of the District Ordinances, the attached list of sewer petition requests previously received by the Board and referred to the Bureau of Public Works for study, shall be closed. Owners will be contacted and have the option to re-petition at a later time:

Date Received	Project Name	Town
5/16/2008	Ten Acre La/Sunset Meadows Assoc	West Hartford
4/8/2002	West Dudley Town Rd	Bloomfield
11/4/2008	62 Orchard Road	West Hartford
7/9/2001	65 Adams Rd	Bloomfield

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

On motion made by Commissioner Torres and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE
FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND DISTRICT COUNSEL PERFORMANCE
REVIEWS**

To: District Board

February 2, 2026

BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED:

In accordance with Bylaw § B3k, that a Special Committee for Chief Executive Officer and District Counsel Performance Reviews be created to evaluate the Chief Executive Officer and District Counsel biennially; and

FURTHER

RESOLVED:

The Chairman is authorized to make appointments to the Special Committee for Chief Executive Officer and District Counsel Performance Reviews as he sees fit. The Special Committee shall consist of a minimum of 3 Commissioners and a maximum of 5 Commissioners, in addition to the District Chairman. The District Chairman shall call and preside over meetings of the Special Committee; and

FURTHER**RESOLVED:**

That the Special Committee for Chief Executive Officer and District Counsel Performance Reviews may establish and recommend a biennial evaluation process.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

On motion made by Commissioner Gale and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM – MEHAKDEEP SINGH

To: District Board

February 2, 2026

It is RECOMMENDED that it be:

VOTED: That the District Board approve passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Section B2f of the By-Laws of the Metropolitan District, the Board of Commissioners of The Metropolitan District hereby authorizes District Counsel, or designee, to settle the pending claim related to a motor vehicle accident at Saville Dam on or about January 19, 2025 against Mehakdeep Singh, for the total policy limits of \$25,000.00, subject to the proper execution of any and all documents reasonably necessary to effect said settlement, including but not limited to a fully executed affidavit from the responsible party affirming that there is no additional insurance coverages available.

Respectfully Submitted,



John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

On motion made by Commissioner Torres and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE
AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Commissioner requests for future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval