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Christmas tree, fireworks among \$6M in New Haven cuts proposed by DeStefano

Published: Tuesday, May 18, 2010

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By Abbe Smith, Register Staff
asmith@newhavenregister.com



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NEW HAVEN — Fourth of July fireworks and the Christmas tree are out; police response times will lag; the school district's Talented and Gifted Program will be downsized; and City Hall employees will no longer be able to watch cable television at work.

It's all part of Mayor John DeStefano Jr.'s new proposed budget cuts that could save the city an additional \$6 million and provide some tax relief to residents. If the cuts are enacted, DeStefano said Monday the proposed property tax increase would drop from 8 percent to 4 percent. The average homeowner would see an \$18 a month increase to their tax bill under the new plan, DeStefano said.

“This budget won’t be easy for anyone, but this budget gets done what must to get done,” he said.

The cuts announced Monday were the product of discussions between city staff and aldermen about how to trim DeStefano’s \$476 million budget and find some tax relief for residents. Members of the watchdog group New Haven Citizens Action Network and certain aldermen are pushing for 10 percent in cuts across the board, or another way to avoid any tax increase for next year.

The school district would shoulder \$3 million of the new cuts, essentially leaving it with no increase over this year’s budget. Half the cuts, about \$1.5 million, include reducing funding to the Talented and Gifted Program, cutting non-academic summer programs and reducing athletics programs. The other \$1.5 million would come from school district custodial services. Exactly how those custodial cuts will play out will be determined in negotiations with the union, DeStefano said.

Superintendent of Schools Reginald Mayo said finding places in the budget to cut was not easy, but he consulted with principals, the teachers union and other stakeholders before suggesting cuts.

The Police Department also faces cuts, including a \$300,000 hit to the \$3.2 million overtime account, a delay in hiring new police officers, elimination of district managers at monthly management team meetings and cutting the police mounted unit.

Police Chief Frank Limon said the cuts will result in “dramatically” increased police response times and a higher workload for officers.

Seth Poole, chairman of the management team in the Beaver Hills and Edgewood neighborhoods, said a reduction in police overtime “should not have a great impact on the effectiveness of the NHPD.” But he did question the rationale of police district managers no longer attending management team meetings, where officers, community members and other city representatives work to solve community problems.

“Removing district managers from neighborhood management teams could not possibly put a dent in the budget,” he said, “and it would be a regression in the management team’s goal of true community policing.”

Other cuts include reducing the city contribution to Tweed New Haven Regional Airport by \$225,000, Market New Haven by \$27,000 and Pilot Pen by \$13,000. It reduces the Shubert Theater operating agreement by \$10,000. The combined elimination of the Christmas tree, fireworks and city calendar would save \$86,700. DeStefano also seeks to reduce funding to the Early Childhood Council and City Youth Initiative, lower medical and workers compensation benefits and end all contractual employees from receiving pensions. Under the plan, executive management positions will not get a salary increase next year and there will no longer be longevity pay for executive managers.

He also proposed creating a Storm Water Authority that could generate \$1 million down the road.

As part of his “innovative-based budgeting” plan, DeStefano proposes to save \$500,000 in Public Works, \$70,000 in new fees for recycling, \$100,000 by rebidding life insurance and \$321,600 from rebidding workers’ compensation.

He also plans to raise parking meter fees from \$1.25 an hour to \$1.50 an hour, and building permit fees from \$25 to \$27.

DeStefano headed off criticism from those supporting heavier budget cuts by describing what an additional 1 percent in cuts would mean for city services: closing all libraries, the overflow shelter; laying off 12 police officers; eliminating bulk trash pickup, closing summer camps and senior centers to name a few.

Rabbi Eliezer Greer, a community activist and strong advocate for community policing, called proposed public

safety cuts a "red herring" in the budget debate. He said the real issue is "middle class New Haven residents cannot afford any tax hike, period." He called for more substantial cuts. "I think there are a lot of over-the-top nonunion jobs that are top heavy and that could be removed," he said.

NHCAN member Jeffrey Kerekes accused DeStefano of "finding things that are going to be the most painful to citizens so that they will go running back to the city screaming 'Don't cut anymore.'"

Aldermanic President Carl Goldfield, D-29, called the proposed cuts a collaborative effort.

"We're trying to keep everyone together and get a budget that everyone can feel comfortable with," he said.

The aldermanic Finance Committee is set to deliberate on the budget tonight. The full Board of Aldermen will hold a first reading of the budget Thursday. A vote on the spending plan is expected May 27.

Contact Abbe Smith at 203-789-5615. Register reporter William Kaempffer contributed to this story.

Reader Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of nhregister.com.

Same old same old wrote on May 18, 2010 6:47 AM:

" Delaying a classes still means that the classes come and then hits fully on future budgets. I thought next year was supposed to be worse? How does adding positions now or mid-year help.

I will see you all around the Christmas Tree, at the Tennis Tournament and then we can fly from Tweed to Philly or Cinncinatti or whatever inconvenient hub they fly too as these things will not go anywhere. Remember the cuts to these programs last year that were announced at a similar press conference and then never actually happened.

I feel for the kids and the potential school reform that actually had some momentum until it collided with the Mayor's need for something, other than him, to be thrown under the bus. Now all the Board of Ed has is a new fat contract for teachers and no money to pay for it. Time to dust off the layoff lists I guess.

Looks like another short term scam to preserve some too long term politicians. "

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Small still voice in the wilderness wrote on May 18, 2010 6:55 AM:

" No surprise in new budget, sounds like it was cooked up by Yale elitists.

1)No 4th of July fireworks(they hate patriotic American holidays)

2)No Christmas tree (they hate religion)

3)cuts in classes for the gifted (they prefer that the 'lower social classes' stay down where they are). "

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Doyens wrote on May 18, 2010 7:10 AM:

" These cuts showcase the weakness of Mayor DeStefano and his budget process. It began by protecting the status quo and socking it to taxpayers. When pushed back, he describes middle class taxpayers as angry at public meetings and reportedly in his online video conference yesterday. Then, he designs some of the cuts specifically as retribution and to make people scream to forestall deeper cuts which are needed for financial stability.

The idea that tiny cuts to the police budget will have a "dramatic" effect on response times or work load as Chief Limon says is laughable. We have a force that is 35% larger than the national average and a geographic area that is smaller than similarly situated cities. If this cut makes any difference at all, then we need to get somebody new who knows how to manage a police force.

The mayor's plan continues to borrow and spend too much money and that is driving this budget and the taxes needed to cover it, tax increases we can't afford. While some of these cuts are designed to make people scream, I still call for more cuts and to start with the highest paid people and administrative structure in this city. Untouched is LCI, Planning, Building, tax collector, Fair Rent, Disability, Community Services, and on and on. Cell phones, private use of the city fleet and more of unnecessary expense remains.

But this is a first step and a needed one. The aldermen should not think that this small slate of expense reduction absolves them of further responsibility. More needs to be done. The mayor's plan still plans to mortgage the parking meter revenue too which will create more problems next year.

It's time to create a balanced, forward looking budget. This is not it. "

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Sanctuary City wrote on May 18, 2010 7:18 AM:

" How about we cut the aid programs for the illegals instead of taking away from the taxpayers few joys from the city. Our are we afraid that celebrating the Fourth of July might offend one of the illegals?? "

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Mike wrote on May 18, 2010 7:42 AM:

" ummmm, city workers had cable TV to watch at work??? Is this a joke? April 1 has passed I swear... "

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convertingtotheright wrote on May 18, 2010 7:49 AM:

" No Christmas tree and no 4th of July fireworks. New Haven should just secede from the Union, set up shop as the banana republic it has become and all the people in the city who actually are legal citizens should move out of town. "

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Bob wrote on May 18, 2010 7:57 AM:

" What a low life mayor New Haven got why does he take a 50% cut to save more money he makes to much anyway . If the taxpayers got to suffer let him suffer too. "

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BartP wrote on May 18, 2010 8:04 AM:

" So now Freddie Fixer owes the City almost \$50,000 which DeStefano will never go after...Wow that is a lot of Christmas Trees and a really good 4th of July celebration...but we all know that DeStefano bows to a certain loud group of politicos...one would think that by now he would have grown a "set" and learned to say No "

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Mike wrote on May 18, 2010 8:10 AM:

" Thats real smart, cut patriotic things like the 4th of July. Then when New Haven loses one of its fine sons in Iraq or Afganistan make sure you attend the news conference looking all saddened and full of sorrow. Mayor, when I look at you I see the image of that old indian from the TV show F Troop.
Now get back to work wasting more of our money on non taxpaying, crime promoting illegal aliens - you nitwit!!!
"

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Ken wrote on May 18, 2010 8:37 AM:

" The Mayors answer to the budget problem is cutbacks on services to the leagal, law abiding taxpayers of the city. why not cut back on services to illegle aliens, his sallary, oh! heres a real good place to cut how about the superintendent of schools. "

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Democrat wrote on May 18, 2010 8:51 AM:

" Better yet, how about doing away with a 24 by 7 chauffer for the Mayor???

Talk about a waste of money! "

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Bruce wrote on May 18, 2010 8:51 AM:

" Great start, now keep cutting!!! New Haven is in a crisis caused by ridiculously high taxes and a shrinking population. If the cuts don't hurt bad, they're not deep enough! "

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WOW wrote on May 18, 2010 9:11 AM:

" Re: cable--WTF??????? Seriously?? They got to watch TV at work? That should have never been an option.

Re: G&T programs...sure, cut that, but never touch special ed. ALL KIDS should get classes/instruction that fits their learning style. I was a G&T kid, but my school didn't have the classes, so I got "dumbed" down...

Re: fireworks & tree--families around the state have been cutting back on extras for a few years now...it's time the cities do the same.

re: "

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Observer wrote on May 18, 2010 9:22 AM:

" How much is does the ID card program cost the city? Why wasn't it cut? Don't forget that the stated reason for having that program was so that people could use the libraries and open bank accounts. No one ever said how illegal aliens were getting the money to put into banks. I would like to see the Immigration Department do an investigation - if they are working, another law has been broken. Either they are using stolen Social Security numbers or they are working "under the table" and avoiding taxes. The employer that is paying them "under the table" is defrauding the state and federal government in not paying taxes and also is subject to huge fines for having illegals work for them.

It seems pretty clear that the Mayor is hitting on things that he thinks are so important to the public that they will

take a tax increase to have the fireworks and the tree. Total foolishness! If we can afford to provide all services to illegals, I would think that we could afford to celebrate American holidays. "

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Sean wrote on May 18, 2010 9:29 AM:

" The Xmas tree and fireworks are stupid and can be cut. What's most frustrating is how someone would talk so much of 'the children' and cut funding for the best and brightest New Haven has to offer. Sure, continue funding for the dropouts and thugs in most of the schools...but cut the gifted programs????

Maybe you should let some of the gifted children take a stab at this, I'm sure if you enticed them they would love a complex word problem and they'd do a better job. "

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Truth wrote on May 18, 2010 9:43 AM:

" Wow, the mayor should really pay attention to some of these comments...cut the cable for city employees (they should be working not watching the tube), get money from the Fixer parade (two years overdue now), nix the mayor's driver, nix the stupid ID program. "

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Hmmm wrote on May 18, 2010 9:44 AM:

" How about the city hall employees starting with the mayor drive their own cars? How about they don't get to watch t.v. or talk on cell phones? 1/2 of New Haven can't afford the \$72.00 a month Comcast charges for cable t.v. How about only paying custodians that really clean our kids schools? How about fixing the heating and air conditioning in our kids schools so it only works when we need it and the windows won't have to be open in 1/2 the classes to even out the temperatures? How about building practical school buildings with windows that actually open to save on lighting costs and air conditioning? Don't put them so close to highway pollution, either... Let's hire crossing guards instead of all these yellow buses and put kids back in their neighborhood schools- that would save money and increase parent involvement! "

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no kutz wrote on May 18, 2010 9:48 AM:

" Why is it that the sacred cow that is the fire department sees no cuts? There are numerous jobs in the budget that are vacant, and have been vacant for some time and the sky has not fallen. This is a complete waste. Data control? Why is this done by a uniformed fireman when a clerical worker could do it for less? Security analyst, what is this? Arson captain, vacant for 2 years, but still funded, what gives? Director of Training, vacant 2 years, redistribute the workload to the bloated staff at the fire training center. Life safety officer has also been vacant, I'm sure that workload has also been redistributed to other inspectors, the city should also look to civilianize these jobs through attrition like other cities, eliminating the bloated salary and pension. I just see a lot of waste here that could be slashed. Just look at the budget. "

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REALLY wrote on May 18, 2010 9:52 AM:

" Sure let's cut the 4th of July fire works and the CHRISTMAS tree. so now all the poeple who came to the city to see these things and spent money in the city, will just go somewhere else. So, not only do you take away these two things, but now you'll lose all the money people would have spent while in the city. Here is a great tax cut, cut yourself and your idiot ways. that will save the city a lot of money. "

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Westmuh wrote on May 18, 2010 9:58 AM:

" You can't say you didn't know, after his history, this guy keeps getting relected.

Talk about a career politician. "

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To Mr. Mayor wrote on May 18, 2010 10:15 AM:

" You cut our Christmas Tree you better cut their menorah. Be fair "

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whitney av- wrote on May 18, 2010 10:18 AM:

" desteffano is a liberal, bully, micro-manager, unethical, ivy league wanna be.
is he not the ultimate haed of the city's finances ? he micro-manages the fd/ pd / bd. of ed /. is the state of the city's financial problems - a brand new thing ? a surprise ?
retire now- im sure the yale community can find a spot for you mr. mayor.
you have put the residents in a great position mr. desteffano. yuk. "

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Unbelievable wrote on May 18, 2010 10:20 AM:

" Cut the cable tv from city hall employees? what a horrific gesture! Why doesn't Destefano cut the influx of illegal aliens in the city who are getting free healthcare, build a wall around the city to keep them out, No I am not a racist, this guy is off his rocker, and these illegals are helping to drain our economy with free healthcare. I work 80 hrs a week to support a family and to assure that I have healthcare for them, John Destefano opens the doors to these people to assure he gets votes for another term in office "

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shoregirl wrote on May 18, 2010 10:40 AM:

" Aw, come on Mayor DeStefinator...

Keep the Christmas Tree!!!

And the fireworks.

These are things that give happiness, fun and hope to people. Especially a Christmas Tree which you can see every day, lit up and beautiful.. magical to kids (and some adults ;) too!)

These two seemingly small things bring a community TOGETHER.

Mayor DeStefinator, change your mind!!! "

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retdet wrote on May 18, 2010 10:47 AM:

" The dump just got dirtier. "

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ld program wrote on May 18, 2010 10:50 AM:

" The program cost about \$250,000 to operate this is run by Community Service adimistration section 803. Their are mixed signals of program. They are able to be used by student, but primary users are the illegal immigrants of the city and near by towns. Less then 3% use this card. Cut the program we may save some other items. "

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Richard wrote on May 18, 2010 11:04 AM:

" DeStefano is idiot and New Haven keeps voting him in. I can't understand this???? "

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TheVolleyballGod wrote on May 18, 2010 11:17 AM:

" Cutting xmas tree lights and fireworks is so beyond stupid whats the point of even working and having a community if you cant enjoy life pleasant cultural moments a few times a year

Bone heads like this are killing Americas spirit, make all city employees pay 7%% of the monthly medical insurance and PROBLEM SOLVED "

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Observer wrote on May 18, 2010 11:21 AM:

" Cutting the programs that serve gifted children is another example of short sightedness. These kids are the problem solvers. They are the ones who need to be encouraged. We need to stop catering to the lowest common denominator in our schools. It's all about "teaching to the tests". No Child Left Behind has really meant all children are left behind.

Why were city employees ever permitted to watch cable TV?? I would really like to know which employees were involved. These seem to be people that could be discharged resulting in a savings to the city.

Cutting the fireworks and the Christmas is another idea that is so stupid that I can't believe that there is any intention of actually doing it. People come to the tree lighting and spend money on parking, restuarants, bars and other businesses in New Haven. The same is true of the fireworks.

As with all other areas of city government, we need a huge infusion of common sense. "

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Andi wrote on May 18, 2010 11:43 AM:

" Social and ID card programs and the lack of collecting the money owed to the city by the freddie fixer organization are just investments by the Mayor to assure re-election. You don't want to p---off the majority. "

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sue wrote on May 18, 2010 11:45 AM:

" Where is the video from the NH Register interactive with Mayor DeStefano @ 2:30 yesterday? "

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Blind wrote on May 18, 2010 11:59 AM:

" OK you know the Mayors staff and advisers are reading this. Why are they not saying you need to cut from the top??? It is the right thing to do. After all we are all employees of this city and many of those jobs are really not needed or duplicated. BECAUSE it is their jobs, their friends and family's jobs. WHO CARES ABOUT DEMOCRACY. Let the mayor have his cry baby tantrum, because that is exactly what this is! DEMAND HE MAKE THE RIGHT CUTS! "

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Tom wrote on May 18, 2010 12:00 PM:

" How sad for the city. Some people really look forward to special events, these are a source of joy for them. Perhaps the people who don't care about these cuts are the "new comers" who don't have a history with the city. DeStefano seems to out of touch with the people who put him into office. While people talk about change some things really need to be left alone. There are so few joys left for us. "

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Where is the outrage wrote on May 18, 2010 12:28 PM:

" The NHPD just lost what makes it unique and effective: decentralized district managers and close coordination with community leaders. There should be protests in the street--all the police chief's ambitious plans just went up in smoke, and crime reductions along with them. This cannot be tolerated! Crime affects everybody and the city needs to have backbone and stand up for what it knows at heart to be right: public safety for all. "

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Ken wrote on May 18, 2010 12:34 PM:

" Cutting the disproportional amount of BOE administrators who do not directly deal with the kids (cutting Mayo and his staff will not effect students one bit) and reigning in the pensions is the only way to effectively cut the budget. There are pensions paid to retired Police and Firefighters after only 20 years of service--New Haven cannot afford to continue this practice. The expensive school construction and the increased busing that followed was also shortsighted and unnecessary--now we are cutting programs for the best students in order to pay for newly painted walls. Teachers do not need new desks and blackboards to do a good job. Yale University's lack of taxes paid to the city is also a reason why NH is always broke--Mayor Destafano never challenges Yales tax exempt status even though it is the largest institution here. "

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discrimination wrote on May 18, 2010 12:38 PM:

" If they discontinue the Christmas tree, I better not see a menorah or any other religious symbol on the green. That would be discriminatory.... "

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Poet wrote on May 18, 2010 1:04 PM:

" You look around the city of New Haven and wonder why? Let's start with the Gateway project downtown, hello and all these new High Schools he lavishly built with tax money and (Taxes revenue taken away)we have to cut? Great planning yeah? O and let's see he will say it's for the betterment of educating the young, ok but you

are closing some schools and laying off teachers? Let's see would it be better to have a nice building or teachers to teach? "

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Irish Girl wrote on May 18, 2010 1:35 PM:

" To Discrimination: Don't you realize that the city has no problem with discrimination? Why else are the Irish being charged for \$24,000 for a parade but the Fixer parade pays nothing for two years?

The only word is discrimination. "

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TheVolleyballGod wrote on May 18, 2010 2:27 PM:

" thats 75% "

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CINDY wrote on May 18, 2010 3:13 PM:

" THE MAYOR STATES THAT PROPERTY TAXES ON MOST HOMES WILL BE A 4% INCREASE BUT THERE IS NO MENTION OF AMT. OF TAX ON CONDO OWNERS. HE IS DOING A GREAT JOB OF KEEPING THIS A BIG SECRET.IT WAS ORIGINALLY 15%. WHAT IS IT NOW? "

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Mary wrote on May 18, 2010 3:13 PM:

" Isn't the Christmas Tree donated? Doesn't New Haven already own the trucks to chop it down and deliver it? Aren't the people who put it up already on salary? Don't we already own the lights? Can't the district managers just come to work late the one day a month the community management teams meet? Why does it have to be overtime? "

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Bob wrote on May 18, 2010 3:39 PM:

" The cost of educating the children of illegals is staggering. It's time to wake up and do what Arizona has done. "

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Bob wrote on May 18, 2010 3:45 PM:

" The New Haven school budget is \$100,000,00 and it's estimated about 10% of New Haven's population are illegals so it fair to assume that they make up 10% of the school budget or about \$10,000,000. "

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MAD IN NEW HAVEN wrote on May 18, 2010 5:05 PM:

" FIRST OF ALL HE IS TALKING ABOUT ALOT OF CUTS , BUT WHAT ABOUT HIM AND THE SO CALL SUPERINTENDANT REGINALD MAYO , WHAT TAX INCREASE ARE THEY GOING TO PAY?AND WHAT ABOUT THE ILLEGALS IMMIGRANTS THAT COME HERE, GET MONEY TO OPEN STORES AND STUFF

WITH TAX PAYERS MONEY . what we pay EVERYONE pays.AS FAR AS THE NHPD THAT IS A JOKE , CAUSE THEY DO NOT DO THE JOB LIKE THEY SHOULD DO . BECAUSE MY SON WAS MISSING AND THE SO-CALL POLICE WASN'T EVEN LOOKING FOR HIM .so, there is a lot more to cut in new haven. "

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SaveNewHaven wrote on May 18, 2010 5:11 PM:

" Okay- so our taxes have gone up, and continue to rise each year. Now I hear... No Christmas tree? No fireworks? What is going on? I have always loved living in New Haven, but year after year, bits and pieces are being taken away and I no longer feel like I can say I live in the city I love. I can't even afford to live in the city I love anymore. How can you take away the Christmas tree from the green? How can you take away the fireworks tradition? I have been watching their fireworks ever since I was a little kid. We are losing sight on what this nation was built upon. I am so saddened by this. I understand we are facing economic hardships, but now is the time to bring us together. If Destefano has a heart, he will make this happen for New Haven! "

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Milford Citizen wrote on May 18, 2010 5:24 PM:

" "and City Hall employees will no longer be able to watch cable television at work."

They shouldn't have had cable TV available at work.

If they needed TV to track anything regarding the Mayor's office, an antenna would have been sufficient to get the local CT stations....and in HD too.

Perfect reason DeStefano can't pass a budget. PORK. "

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SICK OF IT ALL wrote on May 18, 2010 5:28 PM:

" EVERYTIME THIS MAYOR IS LOOKING FOR MONEY HE TURNS TO SOME OF THE UNIONS!! YOU NEVER SEE THE FD OR THE PD GIVING BACK! LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME THE ONLY UNION THAT GAVE CONCESSIONS WAS THE CUSTODIANS AND ON TOP OF THAT THEY OPENED THIER CONTRACT TO DO SO AND THIS GUY HAS THE NERVE TO ASK FOR MORE FROM THEM WHEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND THESE SCHOOLS WITH MADE UP JOBS FOR ALL THE MAYOR AND MAYOS FRIENDS!!!!!!!!!! NEW HAVEN NEEDS TO BE INVESTIGATED LIKE THE OTHER CROOKS WERE IN THE OTHER BIG CITIES IN CT!!! "

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SHELTON OLD TIMER wrote on May 18, 2010 5:54 PM:

" NOW I HEARD EVERTHING YOUR MAYOR HAS A DRIVER AND PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU TAXPAYER PAY FOR THIS DRIVER ?

HOW DUMB CAN YOU PEOPLE BE ?

I HOPE OUR MAYOR IN SHELTON DOES NOT FIND OUT, HE STILL DRIVE HIMSELF.

AND PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU PAY FOR HIS CAR, THAT WOULD BE EVEN WORSE.

TERM LIMIT'S AND CLOSE THE BOARDERS NOW!!! "

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Big Bad John wrote on May 18, 2010 6:17 PM:

" There won't be any Christmas until i get what I want.. No more beer at Lighthouse. No more snappy dragons

or pin wheels, i took the lollipops out of the Spanish girls mouth and told your bugle drum core to go home. I'm a seagull seasick crocodile. It's like that. Want to mess the dress you'll be driven out like the rest. "

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NH Parent wrote on May 18, 2010 6:17 PM:

" No big cuts to managerial dead weight yet they want to slash TAG teachers? Sooo, how does this new budget "keep kids at its center?"

Hope the \$200k in athletics dept. cuts are administrative, we already have to buy equipment for our school.

As Gary Doyen's said: "Why not make significant cuts in non-service areas of this budget first? Mayor's staff? Travel? Memberships? Tweed? LCI? Economic Development? Building? Planning? Cars? Lobbyists? New positions?" "

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Top Down wrote on May 18, 2010 6:21 PM:

" Don't cut the teachers, start at the top; BOE and administration, for example, why do we need SEVEN "Assistant Principals" at Wilbur Cross HS?

"Administrative Team and Responsibilities

Rose B. Coggins: Principal
Guidance, Custodians & Freshmen Seminar Departments

Carl Babb: Principal on Special Assignment
11th Grade Administrator
World Language Department

Eric Barbarito: Assistant Principal
9th Grade Administrator
Physical Education Department

Myrta Bonilla: Assistant Principal
9th Grade Administrator
Career Center & Business Technology Departments

Steve Ciarcia: Assistant Principal
10th Grade Administrator
ELL & Student Services Departments

Larry Conaway: Assistant Principal
12th Grade Administrator
Fine Arts & Music Departments

Michele Sherban-Kline: Assistant Principal
Math & Science Departments

Sheila Williams: Assistant Principal
English & Social Studies Departments"

<http://schools.nhps.net/wcross/ACadministrativeduties.html> "

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Special Assignments wrote on May 18, 2010 6:26 PM:

" The K-8 Worthington Hooker School does NOT need two principals either. The two school buildings, one K-2 & one 3-8, are only two blocks away from each other. Yes, keep the teachers and paras but cut the fat, especially the redundant fat.

Which other New Haven public schools have these expensive 'Principals on Special Assignment'?

East Rock Magnet School (5-8) lists two principals and Wilbur Cross High lists one but actually has eight principals

<http://www.nhps.net/DirectoryofPrincipals>

Does New Haven public schools really need four Directors of Curriculum and Instruction? Five Curriculum Supervisors? Six Directors of Early Childhood Programs? Nine Student Services Supervisors?

<http://www.nhps.net/DirectorofAdministration> "

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Top Down is ABSOLUTELY CORRECT wrote on May 18, 2010 8:07 PM:

" " Comments about how top-heavy Gateway is keep getting deleted by the Register.

Once again, there are many supervisors making obscene money -- and they're not even stationed in the schools!

Mayo makes well over \$215K per yer. His cronies -- aka, assistant superintendents and supervisors -- are well up over \$100K.

Meantime, many of his non-magnet schools are understaffed and lack essential supplies such as paper and pencils.

Further, this reform is pushed, but it doesn't hold parents or BOE members accountable (which figures since BOE members are elected by the parents).

Easy to blame the teachers at the underperforming schools while sweeping key issues and concerns neatly under the carpet.

Tell you what, you want reform?

Then take all these supposedly "great teachers" from the Edgewoods, Nathan Hales and Worthington Hookers - schools that pick and choose their students and quickly admonish students needing special attention and intervention -- and put them in low-performing schools such as Hill Central, Celentano and Brennan/Rogers.

Know what? The scores at those low-performing schools won't improve a lick!

Why not? Because key issues at those schools are ignored, such as services for an over-abundance of special-needs students (as mandated by state law), supplies, little-to-zero parental involvement and student-disciplinary support from administration. " "

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concerned parent wrote on May 19, 2010 7:59 PM:

" how can this mayor and his lap dog police chief even think of removing police officers from our schools(SRO). This is the only place where are children feel safe. Come support our SRO'S at see, click,fix. also check out how many principals are at hillhouse. Three principals and six assistants what a waste of money based the education are children are receiving. Hope DR.Mayo finds the right principals to take over both the schools .Probably from outside the city. "

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sick of it wrote on May 20, 2010 3:12 PM:

" I agree with Sanctuary City, why do we pay high taxes in this sorry a** state? We get nothing in return. I have to be from another country and here without papers to get help with anything. And as far as a delayed response time for police- THGATS A F*****G JOKE- THEY ARE THE SLOWEST PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN!!! "

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The Count wrote on May 22, 2010 9:16 AM:

" New Haven must be the only U.S. city to cut back on its airport subsidy. I can't recall another city doing the same. Is this the message we want to send to prospective business clients from out of town? That "we don't want you?" Must be. "

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Stearman wrote on May 25, 2010 10:45 PM:

" The residents of New Haven need to wake up and vote DeStefano and all his Administration goofballs out of office, he has destroyed a once beautiful and safe city. I remember Administrations back to Mayor Lee, and those after, all of which did allot of good for the city and had the 'Tax Paying Resident Base', business and industry in its best interest. The city was not riddled with crime and murders, as is with the DeStefano Administration, most could walk any neighborhood within the city, without the worry of being shot or other. Downtown New Haven was populated with major Department Stores, a Mall with fine stores, wonderful restaurants, a safe and beautiful Green, safe parks, and safety for Yale student to walk about, older neighborhoods were being invested in by believers, through restoration of older, stately homes in the Hill and Fair Haven section, but the DeStefano Administration has destroyed all set in place by others, the Department and fine mall and downtown stores and restaurants are gone, parks are treacherous to visit, day or night, no sane person would enter Fair Haven or the Hill neighborhoods, the New Haven Green looks like the remnants of some of Europe after World War Two, Yale students have to be escorted and transported, in order to protect their well being, property owners are being over taxed, businesses and industry have left, with no intention to return, taking with them, opportunities for younger generations, Whalley Ave. a total mess, littered with junk stores, as is downtown, these all being some of the achievements of the DeStefano Administration. I had left New Haven over 20 years ago, due to professional employment elsewhere, but return to my Home Town yearly, viewing the increase of decay, year to year, of which sickens me, as I still love my Home Town. We now have the DeStefano Administration cutting funds to the Police Dept. further endangering the adult residents, students, children and visitors to the City, in effect destroying any possibility of economic growth for the once great 'City of New Haven', in addition to this, removing the New Haven Christmas Season Christmas Tree, a tradition for many years, of which brings joy to both the young and old, residents and visitors. One of the most enjoyable memories I have is being on the New Haven Green at night during the Christmas Season, with a cover of freshly fallen snow and more snow falling, the glistening of the white illuminated electric candles in the windows of the Old Churches on the Green and above all the delightful colorful glistening from a gorgeous New Have Green Christmas Tree, living a Norman Rockwell Scene and here we have an Administration, depriving both the young and old of New Haven, the opportunity to experience the same and the possible lifetime memory to cherish the rest of their lives. Shame to all for allowing this to happen. "

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