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New Haven Budget Cuts Hurt Everyone

Aldermen To Meet Thursday Night

POSTED: 4:29 pm EDT May 27, 2010
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NEW HAVEN, Conn. -- New Haven aldermen will tackle and try to approve the mayor's proposed \$471.6 million budget. The plan calls for a 4 percent tax hike and some drastic cuts.

Even though cuts are already deep, the aldermen have ideas for even more cuts.

When New Haven Mayor John Destefano rolled out his proposed budget earlier this month, he said the cuts were going to hurt everyone.

Major changes are coming to the city like holiday events on the green and the Fourth of July celebrations.

Nothing was untouchable.

For schools, the new budget means no more programs like the talented and gifted program and academic summer initiatives.

However, some people are especially worried about the cuts the police department will likely see.

Wooster Square block watch leader Karri Brady said she got involved because police already have limited resources.

"We understand the community that the police department does not have enough resources. So we form a block watch to try to fill in the gaps."

Destefano's proposed budget calls for no new hires for two years and overtime cutbacks, which could make it more difficult for officers to work so closely within specific neighborhoods.

The budget has been approved by the [finance](#) committee. In a statement, the aldermen president said, "I think we passed a responsible budget out of the Finance Committee which calls for a modest tax increase after a year in which there was none. That budget will keep us moving forward with educational reform and continue to provide the services and quality of life which make New Haven an attraction for economic development, residential living and entertainment."

The full board will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday to begin the approval process.

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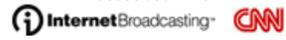
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