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Residents react to Elm City budget cuts

\$471 million plan announced

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Erin Cox

New Haven, Conn. (WTNH) - The newly passed New Haven city budget calls for millions of dollars in cuts along with a property tax hike.

Funds have been cut to Tweed Airport, The Shubert, Pilot Pen Tennis and there are also major cuts to the Board of Education as well as Police overtime and cancelling the next class of officers at the training academy.

However, many residents are upset about a popular holiday tradition that will keep the skies pitch black on the fourth of July. "I think they can cut the budget somewhere else besides cutting the fireworks because a lot of families enjoy coming out seeing them," said Damon Thompkins of New Haven.

The annual tradition of the 'Christmas Tree on the green' was also be cut. That will save the city \$20 thousand.

But it's not just the cancelation of holiday traditions that are upsetting residents. Many are up-in-arms about the property tax increase. "I'm quite sure there are other places you can hit or cut besides going up four percent on taxes," said Shelia Walton a homeowner in New Haven.

It was a packed house on Thursday as the Board of Alderman approved the \$471 million budget. "I think the mayor he should make cuts bigger because I'm very sure they could make cuts in the certain departments," said James Moore of New Haven.

Democratic Alderman Darnell Goldson predicts there will be more cuts in order to fill the budget gap. "It has something like 10 million in holes and they don't know

how they are going to fill them," said Alderman Darnell Goldson. "They're going to have to come back to us and we're going to have discussions again on what we will do with this budget."

There were also big cuts in education. \$3 million was cut from next year's budget making it 'flat funded.' flat funding education mean the possible elimination of talented and gifted programs as well as summer programs.

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 **Kay** · 16 hours ago +1  

It's time to leave CT..I am disappointed in New Haven all together. the cost of living here is very high for the people who can't afford it. It's sad, but I guess it's not sad to those who don't have to worry about financial situations..New Haven Housing sucks, Police Department is not helpful, and when your looking for some type of assistance " there is none" so go figure...

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 **Jimbo** · 16 hours ago +1  

The State has been given away to Big money interests. Illegals brought in for cheap labor. Legal citizens are to expensive and a burden on the system. Americans - we are in trouble!

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 **Joey h** · 16 hours ago 0  

The Board of Alders have been taking vacations as part of a learning or teaching baloney. I remember Chen '34 & AddonizioArts going to far away lands on taxpayers money . Here last nite was Katrina " cokaro" Jones planning a trip to Greece

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 **debbi** · 15 hours ago 0  

Mayor DeStefano has raised the taxes in New Haven to a point where every city block has numerous homes up for sale .Residents are seeking to vacate ! Home values have decreased YET the tax burden has increased. Is the reason why due to the influx of illegal immigrants so welcomed by our mayor who are not responsible in paying taxes yet receive so many social services paid for by our taxes ?! Stop giving so much away JOHN and you may see our deficit dwindle. Start by not funding

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