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Fourth candidate jumps into New Haven Mayor's race

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By: Erin Cox

New Haven, Conn (WTNH) - Running the city of New Haven isn't an easy job, with a recent rash of shootings and budget cuts, and yet there are now four people who want the top job.

The latest candidate to announce is blasting Mayor John DeStefano for his 'entourage'.

Self-described budget watchdog, Jeffrey Kerekes says the city spends too much money on the mayor's staff.

"He has a staff that costs almost a million dollars. Liaison-to-liaison, pretty much he has lots of people working for him when he should be managing the city," candidate Kerekes said.

Mayor Destefano claims in the last ten years his staff has been cut in half, down to eight people.

"In point of fact, we've done layoffs and staff reductions everywhere. The focus here is, frankly, there are too many shootings in the city of New Haven," DeStefano said.

There were three shootings overnight, and with that kind of problem, who would want the top job at city hall? Kerekes, and three others, including former aldermen Tony Dawson, Clifton Graves Jr, and Robert Lee.

Graves welcomes this latest candidate to the race.

"We share a common goal. That is to unseat the incumbent Mayor John DeStefano," Graves said.

"People are tired of Mayor DeStefano," said Kerekes.

"I think it's great. Competition is good for politicians," DeStefano said.

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