

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Christina Kazanas, Grants Writer, 203.380.3249

Stratford's Grants Office Secures over \$7.5 Million in Funding
*Obtains over \$4 Million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for
Stratford's Shovel Ready Projects*

Stratford, Conn. (October 15, 2009) – In 2007, Mayor Jim Miron established the Town's Grants Office as part of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Staffed by one grants writer, the Grants Office has worked with Town departments to secure approximately \$7.5 million to date. Approximately \$3.4 million in federal, state and private grant funds and \$4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 have been awarded to the Town. Over \$36 million in grant applications and federal appropriations requests are currently pending.

"This \$7.5 million in grant funding is the equivalent of 1.65 mils and represents a significant savings to Stratford's taxpayers," said Mayor Miron. "It is one of the many ways we have been able to control spending and provide balanced budgets without sacrificing equipment, programming and other services our community relies on."

"Big wins" for the Town's Grants Office include:

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - \$909,000 in federal funds earmarked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be invested in the clean up and restoration of Long Beach West
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) - \$325,000 in federal funds from the Department of Justice for the purchase of a radio tower and back-up generator for the Police Department
- Stratford Greenway - \$280,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation and \$692,000 from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the CT Department of Transportation for construction of a bikeway and walkway between Birdseye Boat Launch and Hunter Haven
- Police Department - \$225,000 in federal funds from the Department of Homeland Security to purchase a new marine patrol boat
- Perry House - \$225,000 in state funds from the State Department of Economic and Community Development's Urban Action Grant program for restoration work and ADA renovations at the Perry House



- Boothe Memorial Park - \$200,000 in state funds from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism to restore roofs on structures at Boothe Memorial Park

"We have been extremely successful in securing over \$4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for local projects - despite the fact that we are situated between the state's two largest cities," said Mayor Miron. "This is a historic funding opportunity to support local infrastructure and programs which will greatly benefit our community."

In addition, federal, state and private grant funds have been obtained for health, community and senior services; improvements to recreational facilities and parks; early childhood programming; CARE (Citizens Addressing Racial Equity) initiatives, sustainable development and environmental initiatives; and equipment for the Police, Fire and Computer Services Departments.

"The establishment of the Town's Grants Office has afforded all of our departments with the opportunity to aggressively pursue grant funding by working with a grants specialist," said Mayor Miron. "Our grants writer works with each department to target their funding needs, to research funding opportunities and to execute the application and contracting processes."

According to the Town's grants writer, Christina Kazanas, the Town is currently applying for funding to develop a comprehensive inventory of Brownfields properties with hazardous materials that threaten public and environmental health and impede economic development in Stratford.

"If funded, this grant will support a key component of my Administration's economic development plan to redevelop the Town's Brownfields and return these properties to the tax rolls," said Mayor Miron.

The office is also currently working with the Fire Department on an application to support expanded fire and burn prevention and safety efforts.

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Background:

Christina Kazanas joined the Town of Stratford as grants writer in December of 2008.

Prior to joining the Town, Ms. Kazanas worked for the City of Bridgeport as a grant writer, where she developed grant proposals supporting new and on-going projects and initiatives.

During her tenure in Bridgeport, she submitted proposals supporting economic development, planning and zoning activities, brownfield remediation, water pollution mitigation, historic preservation, tree planting, open space acquisition, flood control, clean fuel vehicle purchasing, and Mayor Bill Finch's "B-Green" Sustainability Initiative. In 8 months, she procured over \$1.5 million in grant funding for the City.

Prior to her time at the City of Bridgeport, Ms. Kazanas served as Chief Operating Officer of two non-profit organizations, and served as Director of State and Local Policy at the New York AIDS Coalition, an umbrella advocacy organization representing funding and policy priorities of people living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS.

Her grant writing experience in these various capacities have brought in over \$1 million in funding from Federal health and human services sources, and her leadership efforts in local and state budget advocacy in New York led to the procurement of over \$5 million in new HIV prevention and treatment resources for program across New York City and New York State.

Ms. Kazanas holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Indiana University and a Masters of Science in Social Work from Columbia University.

She is a member of Leadership Greater Bridgeport and has served on the Board of Directors of the Women's Initiative to Stop HIV/AIDS (WISH), a program of the Legal Action Center in New York City. She has served as a committee member on the New York City Ryan White Title I Planning Council, and has been involved in a number of women's health advocacy groups.

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