

Rising Star Breakfast with Mayor Bronin

On the morning of the 12th of January, less than two weeks after being sworn into office, Mayor Luke Bronin spoke to a full house at Infinity Music Hall on Front St. At this Metro Hartford Alliance event his audience was largely business people working in Hartford.

His message was as simple as it was direct. This capitol city of 120 thousand residents and this region of 1.5 million residents, cannot succeed independently. We need to work together. After pointing out the obvious, about Hartford's exempt properties, and



underfunded PILOT, he continued to make the case for ways that each of those present could make a difference, large and small. From encouraging employees to come to Hartford for entertainment and dining, both dinner and lunch, to instructing HR to stop avoiding the City for housing for new employees.

He also commented that he wouldn't be stopping here. He'll be taking his message out to the towns in the region and talking to other mayors and town leaders about the mutual benefits of a strong Capitol City and innovative ways that they can work together.

If the warm reception that he received along with the questions and answers after his talk are any indicator, we have good reason to be hopeful.

The attitudes of people in the region toward Hartford will need to change one at a time, but every time another mind is changed, just as this month's Exploring Asylum Hill Column shows, it makes it a little easier for the next one.

And as Mayor Bronin said, "I can't be everywhere, you need to take this message out as well." We all need to do our part.

Video of the talk is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C63nUXRvc94>