

Dear Neighbor,

I have often written about how important it is to me to protect and improve the quality of life in our community. It has always been a priority to do whatever I can to make Hartford neighborhoods safe, healthy and attractive places to live.

With this mailing, I want to report on two issues that I have been working on – areas where I believe we can make a difference in our city. The first is the worsening plague of graffiti. The second is the damaging effect of repair work by utility companies on our city streets.

On the other side you will find more information about these problems and what I am doing to address them. As always, I am privileged and honored to represent your interests at the Capitol.

I welcome your thoughts on these two issues. Please send me your feedback me at the mail or e-mail addresses provided.

Sincerely,



John Fonfara

State Senator, 1st District



STATE SENATOR **JOHN FONFARA**

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STATE SENATOR JOHN FONFARA

Working for Our Community

ROAD CUTS BILL

When utilities – especially the water company and gas company – need to do underground work, they make a cut in the pavement of a street which they are then supposed to adequately repair, in order to restore a safe, smooth road surface. Because the utility equipment under Hartford’s streets is very old, our streets are constantly being cut open for repair.

Too often the utility companies responsible for a road cut do not make sure that the asphalt patch is repaired in such a way that it does not sink and cause a depression, leaving us with a bumpy, hazardous street to navigate.



This year, I worked on legislation that would make all utility companies responsible for documenting and tracking road cuts they make for a minimum of a year, to ensure that the road cuts have been properly repaired and that the permanent patch remains in good condition. Driving down your street or any street in Hartford should not feel like you are on a roller coaster, or worse, cause damage to your vehicle.



GRAFFITI

How many graffiti “tags” can you see in your neighborhood? Increasingly, our street signs, utility boxes and any available wall are targets for vandals with markers or cans of spray paint, making our neighborhoods look run-down and trashy. This is not acceptable. I have brought together a broad coalition of community groups, the city and utility companies to take on the plague of graffiti in our city.

For several months now, I have been working to create a team that includes the Knox Parks Foundation, Hartford Areas Rally Together, Hartford Community Court, the City of Hartford, merchant organizations and major utility companies to bring together the resources and manpower necessary to regularly patrol city streets and neighborhoods to remove graffiti quickly and thoroughly.

I am committed to building an aggressive and effective city offensive to rid our buildings and streets of these eyesores. The team will also increase the surveillance of the individuals involved in graffiti “tagging” to reduce or eliminate this blight that is affecting every neighborhood in Hartford.

**I WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ON THESE TWO ISSUES.
PLEASE FIND MY CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE OF THIS MAILER.**