



NEWS RELEASE

The Hartford's CEO Convenes Leader Group To Explore Vision For City Of Hartford's Future

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HARTFORD, Conn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **The Hartford's** Chairman and CEO Christopher Swift has convened a group of corporate and community leaders in Greater Hartford to explore the development of a unifying vision for the City of Hartford. The Vision Committee will work with a broad range of stakeholders on a plan that could serve as a North Star for advancing existing initiatives, and other options, to help transform Hartford and its downtown into a more vibrant business, residential and cultural destination.

"Connecticut's capital city is at a crucial point in its history, marked by significant challenges and opportunities," Swift said. "This is a galvanizing moment to bring together leaders from the business community to collaborate with public and nonprofit sectors on a path forward. This effort builds on The Hartford's longstanding tradition of volunteerism, support and dedication to improve quality of life and vibrancy in our namesake city and home since 1810."

The Vision Committee has hired Streetsense, a national design-and-strategy firm known for helping cities and civic partners create actionable, investment-ready visions that strengthen local economies and communities. Streetsense has worked with hundreds of communities on municipal and downtown revitalization strategies, including the Cleveland Downtown Plan, Palo Alto Economic Development Strategy, Hoboken Business Alliance Strategic Plan and Downtown Denver Analysis.

To ensure the vision reflects the perspectives of the broader community, Streetsense's first priority for the project is

to assemble a broad and diverse stakeholder group of community leaders who will make up a Vision Advisory Council that will include business leaders, civic leaders, developers, major institutions and community organizations. As part of the process, the team will analyze current conditions and discuss Hartford's economic competitiveness, cultural identity, livability and connected infrastructure.

The analysis will allow Streetsense to establish a diagnostic assessment of market dynamics, regulatory conditions, spatial and infrastructure considerations, and identify barriers to growth and opportunities for reinvestment. With this analysis, the Vision Committee aims to formulate a vision and execution plan for the city by late spring. The analysis also will include ongoing initiatives sponsored and led by public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam said, "The future of Hartford hinges on our ability to work collaboratively and harness the immense talent and resources we have right here in our capital city. I'm grateful to Chris Swift and The Hartford for bringing together corporate, local and city leaders to build on our existing momentum and create a joint vision for the future of Hartford. I look forward to working with Streetsense and the Vision Advisory Council to ensure this process is inclusive and reflects the hopes of everyone in our community."

Hartford HealthCare President and CEO Jeffrey A. Flaks said, "A healthy capital city is essential to a healthy state. Across the country, the most successful states are anchored by vibrant, thriving capitals – and Hartford has every asset to be just that. At Hartford HealthCare, we see firsthand how health, economic vitality, and community well-being are deeply interconnected. This is a moment to lean into our strengths – our people, our institutions, our spirit of innovation – and shape a future that reflects the full potential of our capital city. I'm proud to stand with fellow leaders in this effort to create a stronger, more inclusive capital city for generations to come."

The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts President and CEO David R. Fay said, "We are deeply grateful to Chris Swift and The Hartford for their leadership in taking on this important work. This kind of thoughtful, coordinated planning is exactly what Hartford has needed – the kind that depends on true corporate commitment. As one of the institutions that helps bring people together in the heart of our city, The Bushnell sees every day how creativity and collaboration fuel Hartford's vibrancy. We're honored to join this group of civic and corporate leaders in helping to shape its future."

The membership of the Vision Committee is comprised of leaders from the cities of Hartford and East Hartford, Stanley Black & Decker, Hartford Steam Boiler, RTX, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, Nassau Financial Group, Hartford HealthCare, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Aetna, the Capital Region Development Authority, Travelers and The Hartford.

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