Name *
Jennifer Campbell
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
Yes, please contact me at the email address or phone number below to let me know how to participate
No, I would prefer to have my comments below read into the record during the meeting
No, I would prefer to have my comments below distributed to committee members without being read during the meeting
No, I will email my comments separately to <a href="mailto:cwinterle@stamfordct.gov">cwinterle@stamfordct.gov</a>
Email Address

Phone number	r (as alternative to email contact)
<u></u>	
Address	
	Stamford Connecticut

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Why can't rent be cheaper? I am a college student sometimes I wonder if finishing school is even worth it.

### For More Information:

Please contact the Board of Finance office by email at <a href="mailto:cwinterle@stamfordct.gov">cwinterle@stamfordct.gov</a> or the Board of Representatives office by email at: <a href="mailto:bdreps@stamfordct.gov">bdreps@stamfordct.gov</a> or by phone at: 203-977-4024

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Name * Bryan W Kent
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

77 havemeyer lane unit 87 stamford ct 06902

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Please cut your budget dramatically and learn fiscal restraint. The city's annual tax hikes are forcing me to move to an area with lower property taxes soon. I am a disabled man who has to make cuts in my personal budget constantly why can't this city do the same?! Your fiscal irresponsibility and tax/spend policies are causing real estate values to crash! The school budget needs to be cut drastically and the city must consider a public/ private partnership when it comes to new schools. I am extremely fed up with this city and how it governs itself!

### For More Information:

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Name *
Elaine Zehren
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Stamford, CT 06907

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

I am a concerned Stamford, Citizen-3rd generation whose grandparents lived through the Great Depression in Stamford. Governor Lamont has approximately 150 million dollars in funds to direct to local cities and towns from the CARES Package. He does not have to direct to local cities and towns, but the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Executive Director Joe DeLong is urging Lamont to work with cities and towns to disperse the money."Local officials are using untold resources and person-power to fight the COVID-19 scourge – unbudgeted resources."Delong,, CT.Mirror-April 8, 2020. It is imperative that Stamford urge the mayor to contact Lamont and his Office of Policy and Management and urge those resources to our City. Stamford got hit hard. In addition, Stamford Citizens should do the same. Thank you for your time and consideration and hard work doing this very strenuous time.

### For More Information:

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Name *	
Omigosh! Please keep up our budget. It is a lifeline for many of us including me!	
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20)	*
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Address	

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Omigosh! Please keep our budget-it is a lifeline for many of us seniors, really essential to get us out—including me.

Dianne Daddona

### For More Information:

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Name * Peter Ebstein
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
peter.ebstein@gmail.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Stamford 06905

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

As both a member and a volunteer at the Stamford Senior Center, please maintain the current funding level (despite the pressure on the city budget due to the COVID19 crisis), as this program is an essential link to the senior community in Stamford. The numerous programs offered address many different segments of the senior population, often the only connection that the participants have to others in Stamford.

### For More Information:

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Name * Ann Meyer
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
@aol.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Stamford Ct 06905

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Please do not cut Stamford Senior Center from proposed budget. The Center provides so many services and activities for seniors. These activities help to keep seniors healthier and provides a place to go to socialize which is so important for seniors who are alone.

### For More Information:

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Name *
Zofia Grajski
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Stamford CT 06906

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Stamford Senior Center has been providing essential services to the vulnerable population for years, and now, in Covid 19 time it is especially important for the Center to continue doing that. As a member and as a person who cares, I vehemently itask that the grant to our Senior Center NOT to be cut.

### For More Information:

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Name * Laurie Pensiero
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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@gmail.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

st Stamford Ct, 06905

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

As a Board Member of the Stamford Senior Center I see daily especially through this Pandemic, how vital our services are to our aging community. I understand during these difficult times we all have to make sacrifices, however more then ever our members need our support and with us losing the benefit of our largest fundraiser this year due to the corvid-19 pandemic we will rely on the funds from our city more then every and our Executive Director has worked very hard to make sure our budget is as tight as it can be while still supporting our members. During this Pandemic we have taken on the added burden of making sure that our members who are food insecure are receiving much need meals and grocery. We have provided wellness calls daily, and online accesses to programs to help support them through this difficult time. We ask you to please consider all we do for our members while considering the budget. We need the cities support to continue are mission of supporting our aging community please do not cut our funds.

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Name *
Deborah Jurs
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
@gmail.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

ZZOJ BCGTOTG OTICCI TI TO

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Please do no make cuts to the senior citizen budget. Seniors have been paying taxes for many, many years to Stamford....and still are. It would be dishonorable to cut from their budget. For some it is all they have to look forward to and to deprive them of some joy in their lives doesn't seem like the right thing to do. Thank you for your consideration.

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Name * Susan Wruble
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address  optonline.net
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Stamford CT 06903

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Please don't cut the budget for the Stamford Senior Center. I am retired and attend the center 4 days a week. I have made friends there. I exercise there. I attend lectures and celebrate holidays there. It's very important to me for my mental and physical health.

### For More Information:

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Name * Thomas gale
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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tamford ct 06902

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

In no way should the senior center have their grant lowered but if any action it should be an increase. The managers of the senior portion make the most of the grant which takes a clever manager to achieve the programs that they do.

The Spanish group and the English group have made the center a second home.

In reality the senior center could use additional room to handle the attendance of both groups.

The close feelings that emanate from both groups to each other as well as the management Total participants in their real concerns that any additional reductions in the grant could cost more to goodwill then any money could bring back.

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Name * Phyllis Corso
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
@gmail.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Stamford, CT 06905

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Living alone I don't know what I would have done without Stamford Sr. Cit. Ctr. They have been very supportive from delivering food to many zoom chats and programs. It has kept my sanity during this isolation. I would have been very depressed otherwise. Please do not reduce their budget as this one is working.

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Name * Clare Kretzman, Board Chair, SSC
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
@aol.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Farm Ln W

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Dear Board of Finance - Although the Stamford Senior Center is physically closed due to the Covid - 19 pandemic, our activities are very much ongoing, with wellness calls, virtual meetings, online exercise and other classes and many other opportunities designed to keep our seniors connected, informed and engaged during these difficult days. Additionally, our Executive Director has partnered with the City, SilverSource and Person To Person to get much need meals and groceries to our more vulnerable seniors. The SSC is actually delivering meals and groceries to dozens of seniors each week, an activity that is outside of our mission but so necessary to care for our members. We are responding to the crisis to care for our members, and our staff and volunteers are going above and beyond. I believe you all know how invaluable the Senior Center is to its members and, therefore, to the City. Our close to 1000 members are relying on our vital services - albeit now delivered in a different form - now more than ever. We will continue to care for our members and look forward to the day when we can welcome them back to the facility they have come to love so much. Thank you for your continuing support and generosity.

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Name *  JoAnn LaBare
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
@hotmail.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

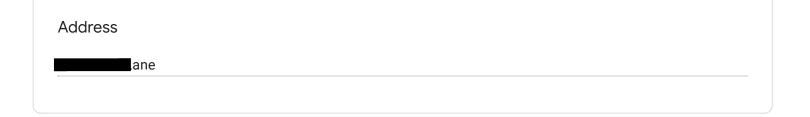
Our Seniors are the most vulnerable people during COVID-19 epidemic. The Stamford Senior Center helps us daily during these times of isolation. For seniors, who've lost loved ones, being part of the Stamford Senior Center community lets us join others who are interested in health, fun, and being active citizens. Stamford Senior Center has been WONDERFUL during the pandemic - delivering food to shut-ins, contacting people on the phone at home, giving Zoom classes for "coffee hours", Exercise classes, and current events. Also, every year, Stamford Senior Center offers much needed assistance in Medicare annual Enrollment and programs for low-income seniors, so people don't have to choose between taking their medications or buying food. They also put some senior level exercise classes on You-Tube, with our familiar beloved exercise instructors, which you can do anytime. PLEASE CONTINUE FULL FUNDING THE SENIOR CENTER!

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Name * Carol Bakinowski
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The median income in Stamford for seniors is \$50,325, but 34 percent have an income below \$30,000 and 22 percent less than \$20,000. Further, 30 percent live alone. The Senior Center provides social activity, intellectual stimulation, exercise and subsidized meals in a safe location.

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Name *
Margaret Lena and Charles Costello
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Email Address
@att.net
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Stamford, CT

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Please do not reduce the Stamford Senior Center's budget. We have been to computer and other classes, and tours sponsored by the Senior Center. The availability of the Center's services is vital to seniors.

### For More Information:

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Name * Lila Croen
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
@gmail.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

t, apt. 2102

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

When my husband and I moved to Stamford a year and a half ago we soon learned that the best resource in the city for senior citizens (we are 90 and 96, respectively) is the Stamford Senior Center. It has provided us with a variety of programs, information and numerous social contacts that have eased our transition from New York City to Stamford. And, importantly, it provides a network of resources for residents for whom English is not their native language and for those who are economically at risk. In fact, during the current shut down it has been providing groceries and meals to many members who would be in much more dire straits without the aid provided by the Senior Center. Senior Center personnel have also been a source of followup and comfort to all its members and have provided programs to keeps us engaged and active.

While we recognize that Stamford is under great financial pressure at this time, we urge you to recognize that reducing funds to the Senior Center would have a very negative impact on a vulnerable segment of Stamford's population.

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Name * Carmen Domonkos
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
Optonline.net
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Stamford 06901

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Social service agencies are more valuable tan ever to Stamford' residents in this pandemic. Especially our older adults and low income immigrants. I am earnestly asking that you, the members of the Fiscal Committee of the Board of Representatives and Board of Finance, approve funding, without cuts, to the Stamford Senior Center and Building1Community funding requests. Their staff and programs are vital to the survival of the people they serve. Thank you. Carmen Domonkos

### For More Information:

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Name *  Marcia V Braunstein
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address aol.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Stamford, CT

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The Stamford Senior Center is an integral part of the community. For many individuals, it is the only social, emotional and physical support for large portion of its members.

#### For More Information:

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Name * June Walker
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
Yes, please contact me at the email address or phone number below to let me know how to participate
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No, I will email my comments separately to <a href="mailto:cwinterle@stamfordct.gov">cwinterle@stamfordct.gov</a>
Email Address
jandan firstcountybank.com
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

reet

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

As a member of the Board of Directors at the Stamford Senior Center, I must implore you not to cut the grant monies for Fiscal Year 2021. The Center serves a critical role in the lives of the many seniors of Stamford. It provides a place to learn, keep fit, and socialize with friends. Many have no family locally and the Senior Center gives them that sense of family. One need only to attend one of the many programs to see just how much the Center means to these people. Fewer programs/budget cuts will have a detrimental effect on many of our wonderful senior population. I would ask that you take every consideration with regard to the grant to the Senior Center. Many thanks

#### For More Information:

Please contact the Board of Finance office by email at <a href="mailto:cwinterle@stamfordct.gov">cwinterle@stamfordct.gov</a> or the Board of Representatives office by email at: <a href="mailto:bdreps@stamfordct.gov">bdreps@stamfordct.gov</a> or by phone at: 203-977-4024

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Name * Layne Rodney
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *  Yes, please contact me at the email address or phone number below to let me know how to participate  No, I would prefer to have my comments below read into the record during the meeting  No, I would prefer to have my comments below distributed to committee members without being read during the meeting  No, I will email my comments separately to <a href="mailto:cwinterle@stamfordct.gov">cwinterle@stamfordct.gov</a>
Email Address  cheenfl@hotmail.com  Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Address	
	Road

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

I will speak at the meeting

### For More Information:

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Name * AVELINA Y QUA
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Email Address
i@HOTMAIL.COM
Phone number (as alternative to email contact) 203

ROAD

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Stamford Senior Center is home away from home for over 1000 members, we enjoy coming here for friendship, exercise classes, lectures, ethnic events, technology support and many other benefits. Now with the Corona crisis, we also get our meals and grocery home delivered, where on earth can the seniors get such care and support?? Please don't cut our budget!

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Name *
Dolores Mosca
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

As a fairly new member of the Senior Center I can attest to the dedication of the staff to the daunting organization of all the valuable programs that would be otherwise inaccessible and too costly to us seniors. I understand the financial strain the local government is under, but hope, our most vulnerable citizen, many of them longtime residents and volunteers, will receive your special consideration.

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Name * Liz Rolle
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Stamford does very little to support our senior citizens. We have no office that focuses on seniors. All we have is a Senior Center. It is not asking too much for the city budget to support the Senior Center and not cut its funding. Thank you.

#### For More Information:

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Name *
Lou Carrier and Michele DeCarlo
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Email Address
@optonline.net
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Street

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The Stamford Senior Center provides important and necessary access to camaraderie, exercise, entertainment and food to many seniors who would otherwise not have access to these fundamental necessities of everyday life. Many individuals would be lost without it, and the diligent, caring staff at the center work hard everyday at providing those necessities with a smile and tireless energy. Even during this pandemic time, the staff provides access to online exercise classes, group chats, delivering food to those in need and moral support to keep our spirits lifted. Please don't destroy the one thing we seniors have to look forward to: Hope that one day soon the doors to the Senior Center will reopen and we will all be together again.

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Name * Lucille Flynn
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

I am 93 years old, and the Senior Center is one of the most important resources for my well-being and quality of life. I participate in card games, exercise classes, special holiday events and the subsidized lunch program. Please continue to fund it. Thank you.

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Name * Stephen Fischer
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The Stamford Senior Center is a place where many of Stamford's senior citizens can learn, socialize, stay active and improve their well being. It is one of the few senior centers in Fairfield County that is not totally funded by their municipality. While the Center is currently close, due to the Coronavirus outbreak the Senior Center is still serving its members and the Stamford community as a whole. The Senior Center continues to provide essential services to its members via zoom classes, wellness calls, food distribution and other services. These are services greatly need by Stamford's seniors, many of whom find it difficult or impossible to get out, even in the best of times. The continued support of the City of Stamford is needed so that the Senior Center may continue serving the ever growing senior population of Stamford.

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Name * Julie Wu
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Please do not cut the Stamford Senior Center grant. We need their services to maintain our physical and mental well beings. The programs that they offered is very important to me. Thanks.

#### For More Information:

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Name *  Madeline Shepherd
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The Stamford Senior Center is vitally important to our community. The services the SSC provides to our seniors need to be fully supported and adequately funded to ensure the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable residents. From its inception, the SSC has offered exceptional programs that keep seniors engaged socially, physically, and mentally. During this pandemic, the Stamford Senior Center has been delivering meals, medications, and basic necessities to local home-bound residents. Please do NOT cut funding to SSC! Many of the older residents in our community live alone and truly rely on the Stamford Senior Center as their lifeline.

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Name * Stuart Madison
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Please do not reduce the budget for the Stamford Senior Center. I am 77 and personally get a lot of value from this organization by allowing me to be an active provider of my skills to help others in the area of technology. It helps me to stay active and it allows those Seniors who attend my weekly classes on computer technology to stay mentally astute in todays complex world.

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Name * Joan Anderson
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

I respectfully request that there be no budget cuts to the Stamford Senior Center. The Senior Center provides invaluable services, meetings, affordable classes including exercise, food distribution, social networking, affordable haircuts, tax prep services, so many benefits that this very vulnerable senior community on a fixed income depends on. When open under normal circumstances, I am at this center participating with the wonderful senior citizens of Stamford 4-5 days a week taking advantage of exercise, social connection and all the services this Center has to offer. Please support our Sr. Center at the current level that it needs. Thank you.

#### For More Information:

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Name * Roberta Pollard
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The Senior center is such an important part of many lives. As we enter our golden years many of our spouses and friends have passed and we basically are alone. The center provides help with our mental stimulation and physical well being. Please do not cut the budget because many seniors lives depend on it

#### For More Information:

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Name * Joan Madison
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Email Address
@optonline.net
Phone number (as alternative to email contact)

Stamford, CT 06902

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The Stamford Senior Center is an excellent, well-run organization which provides services to a wide range of senior citizens in Stamford. The top notch exercise classes offered by Miriam Shaw have been very important to my overall well-being. More important is the role of the Senior Center and its activities as a meeting place for seniors who have limited connections and/or resources by which to enrich their lives. Please do not cut its funding!

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Name *
Kim santagata
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Senior Center provides necessary stimuli for the seniors on many levels.. creativity, intellectual stimulation and education, physical activity, social interaction and access to prepared food. This budget should not be cut if it means increasing costs to seniors to participate or limiting the activities available. We owe it to our seniors who have limited income, increased needs and who have paid taxes the longest  $\odot$ 

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Name *
Phyllis Elperin
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Stamford, 06902

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

I joined the Stamford Senior Center two years ago. In addition to attending tai chi classes, I have taught balance, bone building and fall prevention classes that have been filled with active as well as many frail seniors, some of whom who have had strokes, serious falls, heart attacks, balance problems and more. The Senior Center is far more, however, than just an exercise facility; it provides greatly needed socialization and friendship for hundreds of Stamford residents, some of whom live alone, some of whom are in their 90's, some of whom are widowed. Solid, important friendships develop, communication flourishes, and seniors have the ability to improve their health and lives. Without it, it would be a great loss to Stamford and to those who use it. Please give your full support to the Center and make every effort NOT to reduce funding for it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Elperin

#### For More Information:

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Name * Judy Motta
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

I am a board member of the Stamford Senior Center. We are an invaluable service to the Stamford seniors. Due to Covid 19 we were unable to have our main fundraiser. Although the center is closed we continue to provide essential services to our members with food distribution, wellness calls and classes through zoom. Please do not cut our grant Respectfully submitted

Judy Motta

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Name * Andrea Levine
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The Stamford Senior Center provides a myriad of essential services to the city's diverse seniors. We are provided with exercise classes-now zooming-classes re health issues, speakers, and most importantly opportunities to socialize for a population otherwise isolated at home. Even now food is being delivered to seniors in needThere is a dynamic staff, headed by Chris Crain, looking for more opportunities to assist. More is needed. Please do NOT cut our budget. Thank you for listening and volunteering your time and efforts.

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Name * Shelley Michelson
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

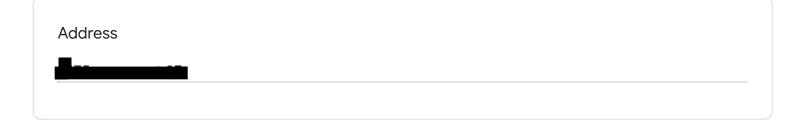
Please maintain a reasonable budget for the Stamford Senior Center as an essential service to the senior residents of the City of Stamford to enable the Center to offer its current programs.

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Name *
Curtis David
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

no cuts for the senior center

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Name * Chuck and Bobbie Romans
Would you like to Speak at the Public Hearing on 4/23/20? (Must sign up by 5 pm on 4/23/20) *
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No, I would prefer to have my comments below read into the record during the meeting
No, I would prefer to have my comments below distributed to committee members without being read during the meeting
No, I will email my comments separately to <a href="mailto:cwinterle@stamfordct.gov">cwinterle@stamfordct.gov</a>
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

We urge you not to cut funding to the Stamford Senior Center. We have found the center to be a valuable resource when navigating through Medicare and Social Security. Senior Citizens of Stamford need a physical place where they can socialize, make friends, attend a variety of informative sessions, participate in an exercise class ... even enjoy an occasional luncheon. It would be a disgrace if a city of this size and wealth could not support a center for its deserving Senior Citizens. Especially now with self-isolation, Senior Citizens need to be able to look forward to returning to their activities at the Stamford Senior Center.

### For More Information:

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Name *
Bharati Koli Rastogi
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Stamford, CT 06907

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The Stamford Senior Center (SSC) plays a vital role in the lives of seniors of Stamford. It provides wonderful opportunity for seniors to meet people and engage in various activities. The SSC providers different activities thru out the day. It has exercise programs, discussion groups and trips that Seniors can take which they may not be able to take other wise. It provides nutritious meals at reasonable cost to seniors. On a personal note since we have moved to Stamford about 3 years ago, SSC has been an integral part of our lives. We are at senior center almost every day of the week. These past few weeks due to pandemic we have not been able to visit SSC for our exercises. But SSC has been able to provide us with virtual exercises which can do at home. It is also providing essential services such grocery shopping, meal deliveries and other help as needed. We hope that you will consider continuing and expanding your support. Your support is needed for the emotional and well being for the seniors of Stamford.

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Name * Barbara Drotman
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

The Stamford Senior Center is like no other! The warm, friendly and competent staff have created an exceptional place for Stamford seniors to spend their leisure time and to stay healthy and fit with a variety of fitness classes. The creative programs keep seniors updated and informed of the latest technologies, medical and financial practices. Without this Center, many seniors would have no place to find friends and a healthy and productive life!

It is an essential part of Stamford life and must continue with appropriate funding, please!!

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Name * William Wright
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

I am writing on behalf of People Friendly Stamford. Our mission is to make Stamford's neighborhoods safe, accessible, and enjoyable for bicycling and walking. We understand the enormous strain that COVID-19 has placed in the City's budget and that difficult choices will have to be made. Very little good has come out of this crisis, which has inflicted pain and hardship on every resident of Stamford. But one small effect has been that, in the laudable effort to stay close to home, more people than ever have been out walking, running, and biking on our streets while car traffic has plummeted. I have never seen so many people out in my neighborhood as I have the past few weeks. Much of this may be temporary, but we think it shows the need to make sure our streets are safe for all users, and not just cars. We hope that transportation projects to this end, like bike lanes and improved sidewalks, will still be a priority because they directly impact the health and safety of Stamford's residents. In the search for small positives out of this otherwise horrible situation, a greater focus on safer streets could be a small but significant one. Again, we recognize that there are many competing priorities, but we hope that projects to make our streets safer aren't left out. Thank you.

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Name * Richard S. Fisher
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Stamford 06905

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

Members of the Boards,

I am a senior, an elder law attorney, and a member of the Stamford Senior Center, as well as a member of the Board of Directors and a past Chair of the Board.

While I am fully aware of the financial difficulties the City will have in the next fiscal year, I want to emphasize that many of our seniors will be affected and the Senior Center has helped and will continue to help them. The Center helps to keep seniors active and healthy in mind and body and to remain connected to the community. We thank the City for its financial assistance and ask for a small increase from last year's apportionment but at the least to maintain level funding.

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Name *  Marie Kancir
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Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

I have enjoyed the Stamford Senior Center for many years now, and I can see how valuable it is to all of the many members who enjoy it every day. It has enabled me to make precious new friends and enjoy activities I would not otherwise have access to. It has opened new doors for me at a time in my life when friendship, camaraderie, learning and having something to look forward to, has meant the world to me. And I am sure that others -- especially those who may be feeling loneliness, tough financial times, personal loss, health issues, etc. -- are affected in the most positive way by the services and resources the Center provides. The Center is a vital and valued part of the senior community and these lives would be severely affected in a negative way if its funding is reduced! Please re-work the budget in order to keep the Center alive and well!

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Mary Deery Uva
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Stamford

Comments on City of Stamford proposed budget FY2020-21 (please limit to 450 words) \*

According to the budgets proposed by the Mayor and the Board of Education, the combined cost of health care for city and BOE employees next year is \$95 million. That is an increase of \$8 million over the current year. It includes \$25 million for active city employees, \$37 million for active BOE employees, \$29 million for city retiree health benefits (OPEB), and \$4 million for BOE retiree benefits; it does NOT include employee contributions or out of pocket costs. The City's health care costs are no longer tolerable or sustainable when so many city residents are losing jobs and health coverage.

Senator Richard Blumenthal has been vocal in his support for legislation in the U.S. Senate to establish universal health care for all Americans, called Medicare For All. One of the proposed funding mechanisms for Medicare For All is a 7.5% payroll tax on employers, with an exemption on the first \$2 million in payroll.

Based on current salaries and wages of approximately \$300 million, the cost of health care for all of Stamford's city and BOE employees would be \$22 million under the Medicare for All proposal. That would be an astounding SAVINGS of \$70 million for the city in one year.

In addition to dramatically reducing the city's operating costs, Medicare For All would release the city from its OPEB liabilities. That should allow the OPEB trust fund, which was valued at \$169 million as of December 31, 2019, to be redirected to other pressing needs in the city.

I know Medicare For All will not help the painful task of planning next year's budget. As you review these numbers, however, I hope you will be in touch with Senator Blumenthal's office to find out how Stamford can join other cities and towns throughout Connecticut to support Medicare For All.

Thank you for your service to our city.

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