

Good morning. My name is Shellye Davis.

Thank you all for attending.

I serve as the President of the Greater Hartford Central Labor Council of the AFL-CIO. We are the voice for over 40,000 public and private sector workers in our community, including the more than 7,000 active and retired employees who live and pay taxes in the City of Hartford.

I also work as a Hartford school paraprofessional at Moylan Expeditionary Learning Academy in Hartford. It's my privilege to serve as co-president of the Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals.

Hartford's public service workers are dedicated, loyal and cost-effective.

We are aspirational. We want to help make Hartford a great place to live, work and do business.

We all recognize that Hartford, like many cities across the country, faces difficult budget issues.

We did not create the problems afflicting our great city, but we fully intend to be part of a solution that moves the ball forward.

We want Hartford to be a city that respects and rewards its workers, a city that recognizes the contributions we make to the common good.

As a paraprofessional, I am committed to helping our students learn, grow and flourish. What I want for my students is what I want for our city.

We must remember that good jobs and high quality public services are the cornerstones of any strong community. We will proceed in a spirit of shared sacrifice to help fix Hartford's problems. We can get this done if we stay committed to a process honors our most hallowed principles of democracy, transparency and fairness.

Now, to speak on behalf of the coalition of Hartford labor unions present here today, I'd like to introduce Richard Holton. Thank you very much.