

Dwight/Chapel West Neighborhood Business Meeting

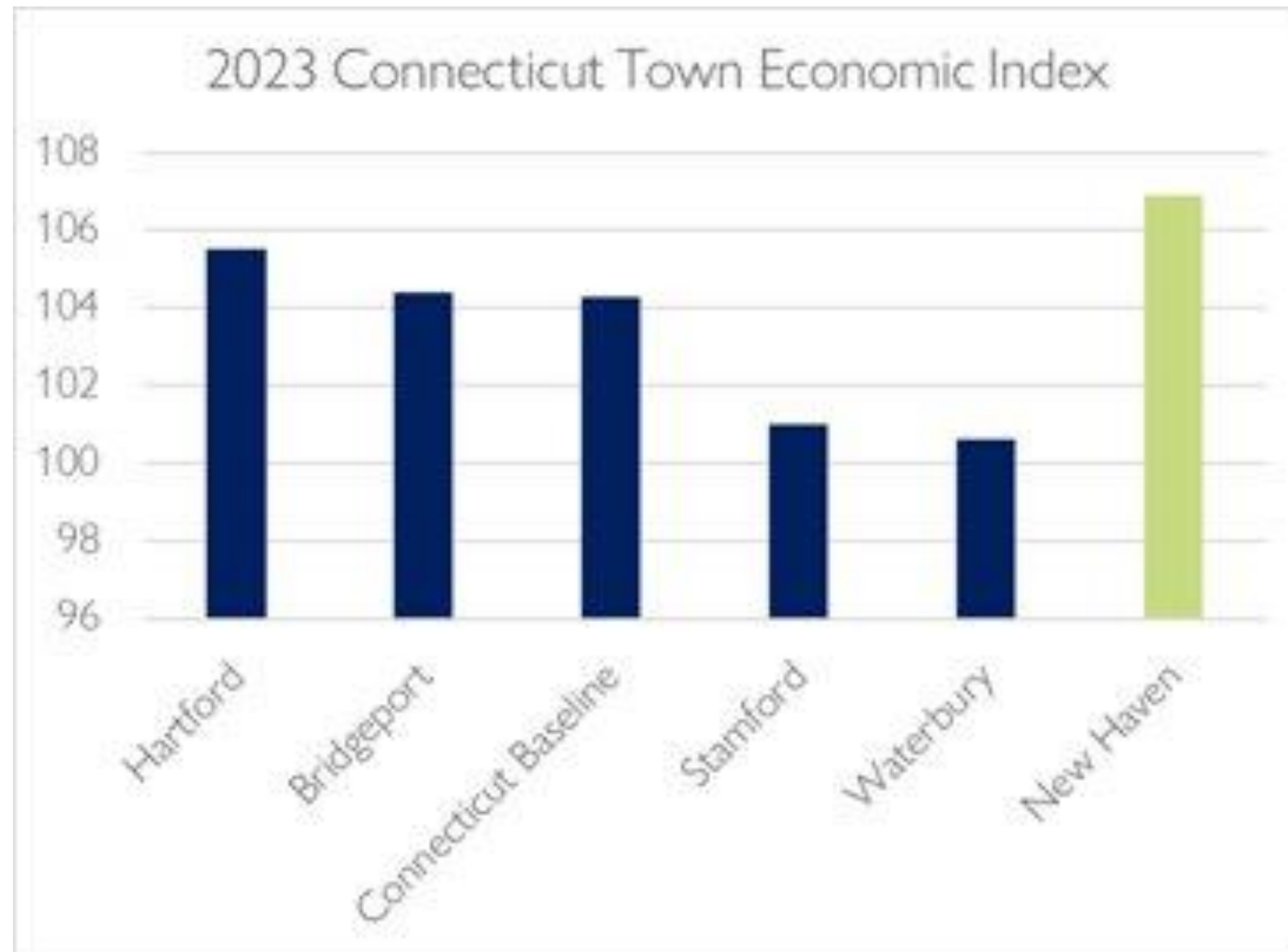
September 30,
2026

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Agenda

- 01 City updates for businesses
- 02 Grant and funding information
- 03 Q&A with Economic Development staff

New Haven At-a-Glance – Economic and Housing Numbers



City of New Haven

Population	135,319 (2024)
Employment	71,601 (Mar 2025)
Labor Force	68,445 (Mar 2025)
Unemployment Rate	4.4% (Mar 2025)

Housing (2020-2026)

Rental Units	6582
Affordable Units	2454

Forward Initiatives: Hill to Downtown

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- 2 Church Street (rendering pictured) – planned lab-office building, to house Unilever and create new technology jobs.
 - Funded by Innovation Cluster grant, this is part of New Haven's embrace of the technology economy.
 - Union Square: development with over 2,500 mixed income housing units, and commercial space.
 - Union Station: DOT redesign scheduled, along with a new and improved interior.
- ...and more, while the City works to bridge the Hill and Downtown, creating housing, jobs, and opportunity for New Haven residents.



Forward Initiatives: Neuroscience Building and Geffen Dramatic Arts

- Two new Yale-related developments:
- Adams Neuroscience Building (completion expected in 2027, with an estimated cost of \$838 million dollars)
- Geffen Dramatic Arts Building (completion expected in fall 2030)
- These are important additions that have created labor hours and trade opportunities for New Haven residents, will improve medical care in New Haven, and provide local and community arts opportunities.



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Plans for 49 Howe Street

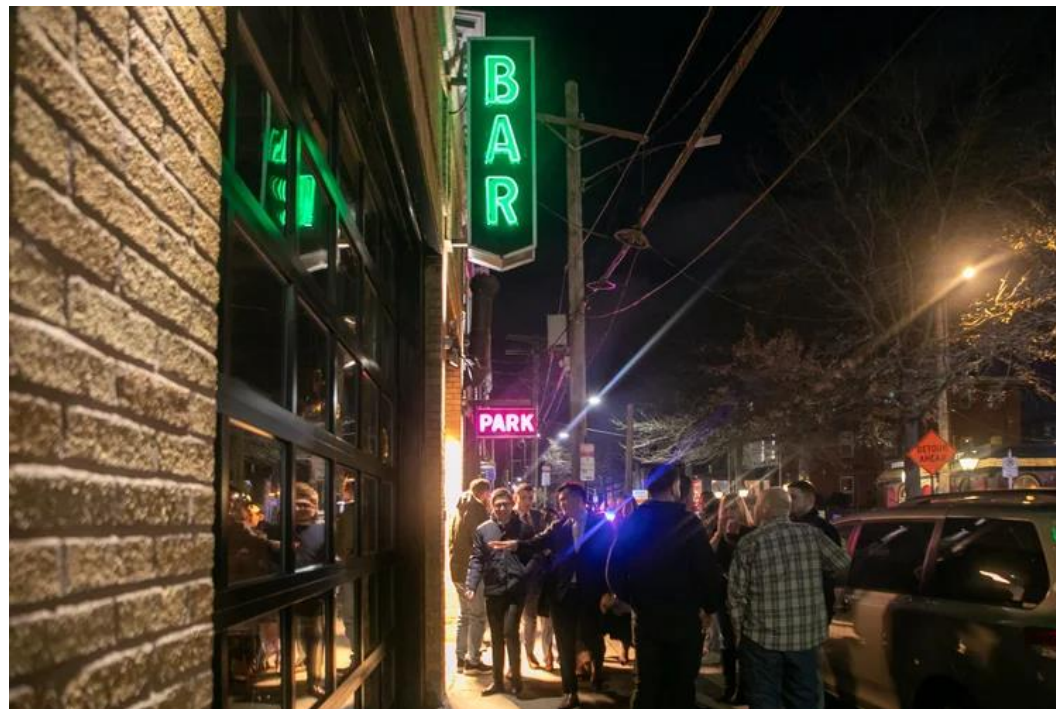
- A new developer is proposing a housing project at the vacant gas station site.
- Property has previously been approved for an apartment building.



Cleaner, Safer, More Inviting Downtown

Downtown has grown and our “safe and clean” approach is growing with it.

- **More People:** expanded Ambassador staffing, hours, and late-night coverage
- **Cleaner Streets:** dedicated teams for cleaning, power washing, and maintenance.
- **Coordinated Response:** A Night Operations Manager to direct resources and address issues in real time.
- **Public Safety:** Explore specialized security and quality-of-life response to complement police services.
- **Noise Abatement:** Pilot continuous monitoring, targeted enforcement, and data-driven solutions.
- **Meeting with Hotels and Entertainment Partners:** Regular meetings between the City and hotels/entertainment partners to promote more overnight stays and improve coordination.



Reining in Problem Juice Bars

- Successfully pushed for state legislation to give municipalities greater local control over “juice bars” – 18+ nightclubs (Connecticut Public Act 26-100)
- Local Ordinance and zoning changes
 - Enacted zoning changes that prevent new standalone juice bars from opening, prohibit juice bars as accessory uses within establishments serving alcohol, and formally define juice bars and similar facilities under the City's zoning regulations
 - Pursuing an ordinance that establishes a more restrictive permitting and enforcement framework for juice bar events, pursuant to the authority granted to municipalities under Connecticut Public Act 26-100 (public hearing tonight!)
- Remonstrances: (Petitioning State Liquor Control Commission to Not Renew Licenses of Problem Juice Bars)
 - **Rumaj Lounge:** Shut down.
 - **Secrets:** Awaiting Liquor Control Commission decision.
 - **Gotham:** Remonstrance hearing scheduled to begin in October.



Façade and Leasehold Improvement

Façade Improvements

Façade grants are 50% REIMBURSEABLE grants up to \$30,000 for EXTERIOR renovations.



Don Empanadas is coming to a brick and mortar on Center Street, using the Façade and Leasehold programs.

Leasehold Improvements

Leasehold grants are 50% REIMBURSEABLE grants up to \$15,000 for INTERIOR renovations.



East Rock Breads used the programs for their business on State Street.

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Support for Small Businesses

NHE3 (New Haven Equitable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem) and its Entrepreneurial Support Organizations provide small businesses with grants.

Connecting with the SBRC provides entrepreneurs with business advisory and support services such as:

- Webinars & workshops
- Education & training
- Mentoring & coaching
- Entrepreneurial wellness and access to business financing

Questions or comments?
Contact Cathy Graves:
crgraves@newhavenct.gov

<https://www.e3connector.com/nhe3/grant-program>



Building Community Wealth





DNA of an Entrepreneur

The Small Business Resource Center hosts free entrepreneurship classes at the Southern Connecticut School of Business, including a new class for established businesses looking to grow.

Contact Cathy Graves or Nova Raft if you're interested in joining the next cohort: crgraves@newhavenct.gov / nraft@newhavenct.gov





Permitting Assistance

Small businesses need to ensure all their permitting is correct.

Grow New Haven: <https://www.grownewhaven.org> – a portal with local resources to help food and agriculture entrepreneurs establish and grow their businesses.

The City of New Haven's Permitting & Licensing Office: <https://www.newhavenct.gov/city-services/licenses-permits>

Contact the City of New Haven Building Department (203-946-8043) and Health Department (203-946-6999) for questions specific to building or health permitting.



Q&A with Economic Development Staff

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Thank You