What Can and Should Be Done for Hartford?
Forms, Functions and Missed Opportunities

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“WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?”

1. What are the givens- things that we cannot change but must work with?
2. What are our options- things that have been proposed and things that have not been proposed but meet perceived needs?
3. How do we bring givens and options together to decide what we should do?
What is Missing From This Model?

• Where is this model located?
• What is the history where this model is located?
• Where are the people? Who are they? What are the demographics?
• What fundamental laws control the decision-making?
• What type of government is there that defines authority, power, and influence?
• By what means can “we, the people” decide what candidates and what public policies we want?
What Are the Givens Related to Connecticut and Its Sub-State Governmental Units?

- Connecticut abolished its eight county governments in 1960
- U.S. Supreme Court decisions forced the law makers in Connecticut to adopt the federal principle of “one-person, one vote”
- In 1965 Connecticut voters ratified the present state constitution that contains an “equal benefit” educational requirement and a legislative home rule procedure
- In 1967 the Capital Region Council of Governments recommended that we consider 7 alternative forms of government to replace the abolished county governments
- In 1971 CEO’s of the major businesses in the metropolitan area hired the American City Corporation to apply the theories and models created for the new city of Columbia, Maryland to Hartford and selected suburban areas
### Evaluation of Government Forms: Capitol Region Planning Agency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA*</th>
<th>ADVISORY REGIONAL COUNCIL</th>
<th>COORDINATING REGIONAL COUNCIL</th>
<th>REGIONAL FEDERATION</th>
<th>METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT</th>
<th>STATE DISTRICT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Political Ease of Establishment</td>
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<td>2. Maximum Citizen Participation with Adequate Performance</td>
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<td>3. Access to and Control by Voters</td>
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<td>4. Afford Economies of Scale</td>
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<td>5. Multi-Purpose (resolve conflicts)</td>
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<td>6. Flexibility to Adjust Boundaries</td>
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<td>7. Has Adequate and Equitable Revenue</td>
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<td>8. Adequate Area for Effective Performance</td>
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<td>9. Legal and Administrative Ability to Perform</td>
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<td>10. Benefited Area = Cost Area</td>
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| AVERAGE OF 10 CRITERIA | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.5 |
Universal Goals to be Achieved

- Earn an adequate living
- Have a decent home in a good environment
- Enjoy good health
- Get a good education and have access to new skills and knowledge
- Share life with family and friends
- Participate in community decisions
- Enjoy leisure
- Enjoy personal security and the freedom to move easily around the community
- Determine for ourselves the meaning and direction of our own lives

Note: These goals are taken from “The Greater Hartford Process” proposal (1972)
Centers for Making and Implementing Decisions

- Health Centers
  - Hospitals & Clinics
  - Community Health Centers
  - UConn Medical School

- Public Affairs Centers
  - City Government
  - Hartford Process
  - CRPA
  - State Government Legislative

- Communication Centers
  - Local T.V. & Radio Stations
  - CATV Facility
  - Comm. ETV
  - Learning System Media Ctrs.

- Special Centers in Schools
  - Science Labs
  - Vocational-Technical Shops
  - Arts

- Science & Technology Centers
  - Travelers Weather Service
  - RPI
  - Universities
  - Hartford Technical Institute
  - Bradley Weather Service

- Office & Retail Centers
  - Retail Stores
  - Insurance Companies
  - Banks
  - Industrial Plants
  - Office Buildings

- Fine & Performing Arts Centers
  - Bushnell
  - Hartford Stage Company
  - Universities
  - Dance Company
  - Athenæum
Investment-Return Cycle

- Community Development Investment
  - Invests $ resources
  - $ returns revenue
  - Invested $ improves systems

- New Life Support Systems
  - Public e.g. Education
  - Private e.g. Health

- New Community e.g. Housing Stores
  - Pays services
  - Pays rent

- Personal Income
  - $ returns revenue
  - Increases wages
  - Pays taxes

- Services debt
Tough Decisions

• Is there a need to change what we now have in Hartford and its metropolitan area to achieve the stated goals?
• Has the time come to consolidate a number of towns and cities to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in taxes, land use, and decision-making, e.g. Return to original town and city boundaries?
• Is there a need to replace the old Hartford county with one of the 7 alternative models proposed by the CRPA?
• Do the proposals of “The Greater Hartford Process” meet our current needs, e.g. Health care?
Once the Decisions Have Been Made, We Need To:

1. Strengthen our political system by improving our two-party system
2. Create a new way of associating with Hartford and its metropolitan area using the Columbia model
3. Each village should have a major facility that serves the entire city, Trinity’s hockey rink
4. Each neighborhood should have an elementary school with comprehensive uses
5. The metro area government would have authority over environmental policies, economic development, transportation facilities etc
6. Create a new concept for what it means to be a “citizen”
Improving Our Two-Party System

• Create a metro party system for state and federal challenge primaries
• Reform our voting system by:
  – Adopting same day voter registration
  – Optional voting at home or place of work
  – Abolishing conflicts of interest on town committees
  – Abolishing the option for cross-endorsements by candidates and parties
  – Reducing uncontested elections
We have "the givens," "the options," and "the decisions we can and should make."

Do we have the courage, the will, and the tenacity to act?