

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Martin names Michael Pollard as Chief of Staff
Appoints former Board of Finance Chairman to senior level position

STAMFORD, CT – Mayor David Martin announced the appointment of Michael Pollard to serve as a Special Assistant to the Mayor functioning as Chief of Staff, effective immediately. The Chief of Staff will lead the staff in Mayor's Office and work closely with the cabinet to set and implement the mayor's agenda.

The appointment is recognition of Stamford's status as a major city in Connecticut, the state's third largest, and the increasing complexity and magnitude of city issues. Stamford will join the other four cities in Connecticut with over 100,000 residents by establishing the Chief of Staff role.

"Stamford has grown to become a major player in our state and region and we continue to attract new residents each day. The appointment of a Chief of Staff allows our city to catch up to other municipalities who have recognized the significance of the role to more effectively addressing complex challenges and creating opportunities," Martin said. "The position will play a dynamic role in the administration."

In his announcement, Martin also highlighted Pollard's deep experience and dedication to the Stamford community.

"We face a number of critical issues in Stamford and Michael is equipped with the breadth and depth of experience necessary to help drive the agenda," Martin said. "He is committed to championing government that is more responsive, effective and transparent, and he will be an asset to our team and to the city."

Pollard served on the Stamford Board of Finance for six years (2003-2009), the last two as its Chairman. On the board he was an advocate for efforts to reduce costs and improve city processes and was recognized for his leadership in establishing more equitable budget policies. In 2011, he was appointed by the Governor to serve on the State Board of Regents for Higher Education and currently serves on the State of Connecticut's Criminal Justice Information Systems Commission (CJIS). Pollard has also served on the boards of several local organizations.

In addition to his public service, Pollard has built a distinguished corporate career, working for IBM, Owens Corning, A.T. Kearney Consulting, and Archstone Consulting before forming his own business advisory service, Optul Global Services (OGS). A full biography is attached.

Martin will submit an appropriation request to the appropriate city boards to request funding for the new position. No funds will be dispersed by the city until the request earns approval, though Pollard will begin serving immediately.

At the announcement, Martin also announced the appointment of Michael Handler, who will continue to serve as Director of Administration.

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