

House Republican Press Release

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REP. CAFERO SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING BOND MONEY FOR NUMEROUS NORWALK PROJECTS



AID FOR NORWALK HOSPITAL, DREDGING, TRANSPORTATION, CHILDREN PROGRAMS & AQUARIUM ON TAP

HARTFORD – House Republican Leader state Rep. Lawrence F. Cafero Jr. announced today that a total of \$10.1 million has been secured for numerous projects that will benefit his hometown of Norwalk following the approval of the state bonding package during a special legislative session today.

The final approval of the bonding had been delayed for months between Republicans and Democrats because of a dispute over the amount of borrowing gov. M. Jodi Rell would support. The governor, with the support Cafero and the Republicans vetoed the initial \$3.2 billion proposal because it was too costly.

“We finally have a bonding program that makes more sense,” Cafero said. “While I remain concerned about the rising amount of state debt, we have approved considerable resources for much-needed school construction, transportation infrastructure and other projects that will benefit Norwalk and the state of Connecticut.”

As a result of Republican opposition the legislature reduced borrowing by nearly \$400 million to a total of \$2.82 billion over two years.

Among the dozen items included in the bond bill directly affecting Norwalk are:

- At Norwalk Community College, roof repairs, not exceeding \$450,000;
- Grant-in-aid to the city of Norwalk for improvements in the flood control system, not exceeding \$3,005,000;
- Grant-in-aid to the city of Norwalk for the Maritime Aquarium to defray financial obligations incurred for construction of the Environmental Education Center, not exceeding \$400,000;

- Grant-in-aid to Stepping Stones Museum for Children in Norwalk for expansion of the facility, not exceeding \$400,000;
- Grant-in-aid to the Norwalk Seaport Association for infrastructure renewal projects, not exceeding \$500,000;
- Grant-in-aid to the Norwalk Transit District for renovations, upgrades, technology improvement, lighting and a new security system related to pulse point safety and security enhancements, not exceeding \$153,000;
- Grants-in-aid for hospital-based emergency service facilities, up to \$878,050 shall be made available to Norwalk Hospital;
- Grant-in-aid to the city of Norwalk for harbor dredging, not exceeding \$1,000,000;
- Grant-in-aid to the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum in Norwalk for infrastructure renewal projects, not exceeding \$1,000,000;
- For the Judicial Department, acquisition of Norwalk courthouse, not exceeding \$1,900,000 ;
- Grants-in-aid to municipalities and organizations that are exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, for cultural and entertainment-related economic development projects, \$625,000 shall be made available to the town of Norwalk for the Norwalk Maritime Museum;
- Grant-in-aid to the Norwalk Transit District, for construction of a bus depot, not exceeding \$250,000.