



February 13<sup>th</sup> 2013

Appropriations Committee Testimony  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2702  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

To whom it may concern;

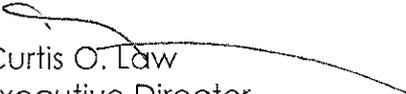
On behalf of the Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk I would like to take thank the Appropriations Subcommittee for their hard work and for allowing me the opportunity to voice my opinion on a critical budgetary decision that will affect thousands of Connecticut constituents and businesses. As the Executive Director of the Norwalk Housing Authority, I am imploring the Appropriations Subcommittee to fund the highly successful **STRIVE** program.

**STRIVE** has provided a **400%** return on investment for Connecticut Tax Payers placing over 300 graduates into full-time employment. **STRIVE** (Support and Training Result In Valuable Employees) is not a traditional occupational skills training or academic enrichment classroom program. It is an in-your-face, attitudinal adjustment, experiential learning program that confronts and addresses individual behaviors that prohibit workplace success. The majority of clients are ex-offenders who have few training and placement options. The program is operated in Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven.

**STRIVE** recognizes that many people have never gained the foundational "soft skills" to succeed at the first jobs that lead to greater growth such as the inability to work cooperatively, handle criticism, or successfully navigate the myriad of spoken and unspoken expectations in any workplace. This has often meant people lose job after job without understanding why -- or how -- to change.

With a low cost, high impact program such as **STRIVE**, I believe it would be extremely unwise to cut their funding. Additionally, any cut to **STRIVE** may affect the federal awards to complimentary services. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to fight to keep **STRIVE** in the budget. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Curtis O. Law  
Executive Director

**Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk**

P.O. Box 508, 24 ½ Monroe Street • Norwalk, Connecticut 06856-0508  
Phone 203-838-8471 • Fax 203-838-6535 • TDD/TYY 1-800-545-1833 ext. 437

[www.norwalkha.org](http://www.norwalkha.org)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**CESAR RAMIREZ**  
*Chairman*

**JEFFREY INGRAHAM**  
*Vice Chairman*

**BERNADINE TATEM**  
*Treasurer*

**BEVERLY KRIEGER**  
*Commissioner*

**LARRY A. KATZ**  
*Commissioner*

**CURTIS O. LAW**  
*Executive Director*

**CANDACE E. MAYER**  
*Deputy Director*

**LATTARULO LAW FIRM, LLC**  
*General Counsel*

**UNITED WAY**

**COMMUNITY PARTNER**