CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE BOBBY SANCHEZ

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Celebrating Community, Service and Connection

By Mayor Bobby Sanchez

September was a busy month in New Britain. It gave us chances to honor those we have lost and those who have served, celebrate progress, support our local businesses, and spend time with the people who make our city special.

On the 25th anniversary of September 11, we gathered in Central Park to remember the 2,977 lives lost, honor the extraordinary bravery of our first responders, and reflect on a day that forever changed our country.

We also honored our Korean War and Vietnam War veterans during a special ceremony at New Britain High School. These men and women answered the call to serve, and recognizing their sacrifice and their contributions to our community was one of the highlights of my month.

Early in the month, I joined businesses from along John Downey Drive at Alvarium Beer Company to mark the completion of paving improvements on that corridor. Projects like this may seem simple, but good roads and well-maintained business corridors make a real difference for residents, visitors, and the businesses that invest in our city.

Our first Business 360 Resource Fair brought nearly 20 organizations and City departments together in one place. Business owners and entrepreneurs could get help with financing, hiring, expanding, or finding their way through City Hall. Our local businesses are the backbone of New Britain's economy, and City Hall should be a partner in their success.

From the start of my administration, I have believed residents deserve direct access to their mayor. In September, I continued my Listening Tour with a stop in Ward 2, hosted several Mayor's Office Hours sessions, and held a public meeting to update residents on upcoming infrastructure work on Allen Street. These conversations help us understand what residents are experiencing and where we can do better.

At a joint meeting of our Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZs), residents from across the city learned what is happening in their neighborhoods and how to get involved. The New Britain Police Department also shared information about the Neighborhood Block Watch program, another way we can work together to keep our neighborhoods safe, connected, and informed.

Public safety remains one of our highest priorities. In September, I authorized the hiring of 12 new officers for the New Britain Police Department. We are continuing to rebuild staffing and make sure our officers have the personnel and resources they need to keep New Britain safe.

September 15 marked the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, which holds special meaning for me and for so many families in New Britain. I attended parades, hosted an art reception, and joined cultural celebrations, including events at Central Connecticut State University, all honoring the history, art, and traditions of our Hispanic and Latino community.

That connection extends beyond our city. I recently traveled to Puerto Rico to continue building a Sister City relationship with Rincón, my family's hometown. Generations of New Britain families have built their lives here while keeping strong ties to the island, and I look forward to the cultural, educational, and community exchanges this partnership will create.

Taking care of our community also means taking care of ourselves. I joined the New Britain Health Department to receive my shingles and pneumonia vaccinations as part of the City's effort to make prevention information and vaccines more accessible. Residents can learn about upcoming clinics by calling the Health Department at (860) 612-2771.

Whether we are improving a roadway, hiring a police officer, helping a business grow, honoring a veteran, or sitting down with a resident during Office Hours, our goal is the same: a stronger, safer, and more connected New Britain for everyone.

That spirit continues at the One City Celebration, now on Saturday, October 3, at Walnut Hill Park. I hope residents from every neighborhood will join us for an afternoon of the cultures, music, food, and traditions that make New Britain who we are. We will close the evening with the city's first-ever drone show over Walnut Hill Park. Learn more at newbritainct.gov/events.

Together, we are building a New Britain that honors where we come from, invests in where we are today, and moves forward with confidence in where we are going.

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https://www.newbritainherald.com/news/mayors-corner-celebrating-community-service-and-connection-in-new-britain/article_0661a095-1f8e-41be-865c-044c9ed16523.html