

Biography of James E. Harrington

Mayor of the City of Brockton

James E. Harrington is serving his second term as Mayor of the City of Brockton. A descendent of Irish immigrants, he was elected to his first term as Mayor on November 2005. More recently, Mayor Harrington was re-elected to a second term in November 2007. Prior to his Mayoral election of 2005, he served 16 years in the City Council and was elected by his colleagues to serve as Council President on three separate occasions: in 1988, and 1998 and again in 2005.

A native of Somerville, Mayor Harrington moved to Brockton with his wife in 1972 and bought their first home. Mayor Harrington and his wife Karen have been married for 40 years and have four children, and six grandchildren. Mayor Harrington is a proud veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, 11th Special Forces, Group Airborne, serving from 1966 to 1974.

In his professional career, Mayor Harrington worked as a Computer Field Service Engineer and a Field Service Manager for Wang Laboratories, Inc. In 1990, he pursued a new endeavor and established the Harrington's Insurance agency. In 1996, he opened Centre Street Financial Services, Inc. a Tax and Financial Advisor firm, which he currently owns along with the insurance agency. Mayor Harrington is a licensed Massachusetts Insurance Broker and holds NASD Licenses Series 6, 63 and 65, and is a Certified Long Term Care Insurance broker (CLTC), as well as a Certified Senior Advisor (CSA).

Mayor Harrington has a reputation and is known for making the tough decisions and getting the job done. He is a believer that the City of Brockton is a City of One People, where everyone is afforded an opportunity to live and prosper in a safe and nurturing environment. Mayor Harrington continues to be a champion for children's causes, working as the Chair of the School Committee to make the City's educational system second-to-none. During these foreclosure times, Mayor Harrington continues to seek funding to revitalize the neighborhoods and creating affordable housing. Furthermore, Mayor Harrington believes that every user of city services should be treated as a VIP customer, and served with the best that technology has to offer.

Public Safety

The safety and security of every visitor and resident of the City of Champions, has and will continue to be Mayor Harrington's number one priority. In keeping the streets and neighborhoods of Brockton safe and hospitable, as Mayor he has:

- 🐾 Implemented a "Zero Tolerance Policy" on crime, creating a special police unit, comprised of both Brockton and State police officers to combat quality of life issues
- 🐾 Along with the Police Chief, walked and visited every neighborhood to evaluate the effectiveness of safety programs

- 👤 Re-energized Neighborhood Watch Groups throughout Brockton's neighborhoods; attended meetings in each ward to encourage residents to participate and share their input.
- 👤 Initiated meetings with the Faith-Based Community and formed partnerships to safeguard the lives of Brocktonians
- 👤 Changed the face of Community Policing efforts by implementing a redistricting plan which will divide the City into three sectors of operation with its own command structures
- 👤 Trained all city employees in emergency management protocol: NIMS/ICS training to be prepared for large-scale disasters and/or emergencies
- 👤 Added new police cruisers to the Brockton Police Department fleet.
- 👤 Added a new ladder truck to the Brockton Fire Department
- 👤 Created a Graffiti Removal Hotline (508) 586-2348 and has had a great impact in the community and area businesses
- 👤 Instituted a Gun "Surrender" Program (508) 587-GUNS (4867), offering residents a safe method of removing unwanted weapons from their homes
- 👤 Removed Illegal drug paraphernalia from local stores selves throughout the city
- 👤 Installed Automatic defibrillators at City Hall and in other public buildings
- 👤 Submitted an ordinance for Video Traffic Enforcement as a way of keeping the streets "traffic-safe"
- 👤 For the first time, a Truck Traffic Enforcement Unit was created within the Brockton Police Department.

Education

As a believer that every child deserves the best possible education, and educational system, Mayor Harrington has been a Champion for education and during his tenure as Mayor he has:

- 👤 Continually met and made himself available to every parent advisory group in the school system.
- 👤 Visited the City Schools on a routine basis, and participated in classroom activities such as reading and served as principal for a day
- 👤 Partnered with other Mayors to put language in legislation that enabled the City Brockton to salvage 90% reimbursement for the construction of two new schools after an old plan was abandoned due to lack of funding. The new and more technologically advanced schools have been build and are fully operational
- 👤 As Mayor, serve as the Chairman of the School Committee, and in that capacity facilitated the expansion of the full-day Kindergarten Program. Converted the Junior High program into Middle School and introduced the K-8 models in several schools
- 👤 Implemented the Summer of Work and Learning Programs, dealing with area businesses to help youths find jobs. During the summer of 2008 the number of youths employed through various initiatives was much higher than previous years
- 👤 Implemented the Mayor's Higher Education Collaborative with Bridgewater State College, UMASS, Massasoit, and Stonehill, and is working to create a Higher Education Center in Brockton to offer degree and professional classes

- 👤 Expanded the “Brockton after Dark” Summer Youth program and enrollment broke record numbers in 2008. Brockton after Dark is a summer program that offers art and athletic activities, providing city youth with a safe environment 5 nights per week for the entire summer.

Neighborhood Revitalization and Community Involvement

Mayor Harrington believes that the citizens of Brockton are the best assets of the City of Champions. It is crucial to seek their input, utilize this input in decision-making, and provide opportunities to develop new leaders. In addition to recreational opportunities, the residents of Brockton need to feel included and involved in the governing of their city. Since becoming Mayor, Mayor Harrington has:

- 👤 Acquired millions in Federal and State grants and funding to ease the stress of the foreclosure epidemic
- 👤 With partners from the financial institutions, created “Buy Brockton”, a program to assist families buying foreclosed homes and provide education to prevent foreclosures
- 👤 Recently created “Building a Better Brockton, Inc” as a result of consolidation of various economic development entities to provide cost savings to the City as well as provide a seamless process for redevelopment, development, and planning.
- 👤 Created a free Summer Video Camp program for Jr. High students through Brockton Community Access
- 👤 Established the Mayor’s Summit of Stakeholders—a conference comprised of Youth Service providers who share their experiences and coordinate efforts to provide more effective services for our youth population, it meets after the annual Mayor’s Youth Summit to process recommendations made by the city’s youth.
- 👤 Created the Youth Advisory Council. The Council allows Brockton youth to have a voice in city government. It is comprised of 19 students from various schools and different backgrounds.
- 👤 Initiated the Mayor’s Community Advisory Council. This Council is comprised of eleven individuals of diverse backgrounds who were chosen by their peers and organizations to represent their community and provide feedback. The council has been converted into the City’s Diversity Commission
- 👤 Implemented the Voter Registration Program Drive, which employed inner-city youth and encouraged residents to vote
- 👤 Hosted several Open House at City Hall, to allow a glimpse into City government operation and ease the stress the community may have when seeking city services; an idea inspired by the Mayor’s Community Advisory Council
- 👤 Expanded Brockton’s Smart Growth District in the downtown Renaissance District
- 👤 Created the War Memorial Restoration Committee as well as the Arts, Cultural, and Humanities Council. These groups are dedicated to preserving the heritage of this historic treasure, while providing a haven for our veterans and a venue for the arts.
- 👤 Established the privately funded Mayor’s Children’s Fund, dedicated to providing funding for youth issues that arise beyond the scope of the city budget.
- 👤 Secured private funding to extend the season of the Cosgrove Pool

- ✎ Worked with our Legislators to acquire nearly \$2 million for the restoration of the Manning Pool which re-opened in 2008 after several years of inactivity
- ✎ Created the DW Field Golf Course, and Parks and Recreation Task Forces, dedicated to investigate the state of our parks and recreation facilities and compile a plan to refurbish each them, one at a time.

Investing in New Technology and Customer Service

Technology is an essential factor in modern government to provide high-quality service to residents, employee efficiency, and easy transfer of information. Providing highly efficient and dependable Customer Service has and will continue to be a priority for the Harrington Administration; and as a result of this concern, citizens can now:

- ✎ Pay their City bills online, including Taxes, Utility Bills, and Parking Tickets. Residents may use credit and debit cards or electronic checks to make payments.
- ✎ Use the upgraded Citizen's Request Online Program. Residents can submit questions or report problems from the City of Brockton web site. Copies of their concerns go directly to the appropriate department, with a copy going to the Constituent Service Director for follow-up.
- ✎ Access the Assessors' Database and maps on online
- ✎ Use the fully automated permitting process
- ✎ Access meeting schedules and agendas for city committees online
- ✎ View the newly upgraded City of Brockton's web page. Videos highlighting "What's good about Brockton" can be viewed through the city's website.
- ✎ Access the internet using their wireless communication devices while visiting City Hall
- ✎ Benefit from new technology to fight crime using the newly installed Windows-based computer software CompStat for the Brockton Police Department.
- ✎ Enjoy the award-winning Solar Brightfield—a pioneer in renewable energy which turned a contaminated "Brownsfield" into an energy producing Solar array; the largest of its kind in New England

PLEASE NOTE: This outline is to be used for information purposes only, and should NOT be used in its entirety when introducing the Mayor.