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TO: Members of the Common Council

FROM: Wayne J. Shepperd, Office of the Mayor

SUBJECT: Connecticut Film Festival update

Our second year of hosting this event is primed to be even more successful than 2008.

More than 300 events are planned from June 2-7 at two dozen Danbury sites. A total of 142 films will be shown (12 more than last year). Additionally, 70 musical artists will perform with approximately one-third of them at free performances on the CityCenter green or inside the Danbury Public Library plaza. And, there are 95 workshops or panel discussions (77 more than last year).

The formal kickoff will be Tuesday, June 2 from 5-7 p.m. at Plaid Design - fourth floor of the Empress Office Building, 155 Main Street. Immediately following at The Palace Theater will be the Red Carpet opening of the Connecticut Film Festival with the showing of *Timer*, a modern-day romantic comedy that enjoyed its world premiere last month at the Tribeca Film Festival. Doors to the Palace open at 6:30 p.m. with the film to begin at 7:45 p.m.

Two keynote speeches will be given during the week.

Eric Zimmerman, the originator of GameLab and highly recognizable in the interactive and gaming world, will speak Saturday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Polish American Club, 6 Ives Street.

Mike Reise, a writer and producer of *The Simpsons* movie and numerous other animated films, will speak in the Common Council Chambers, Saturday, June 6 at 10 a.m.

And another attractive presentation will be a Screenwriters Masters Class with Hollywood Screenwriter James V. Hart leading the way. This is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday, June 5 in the Common Council Chambers.

A comprehensive look at the Film Festival can be found at www.ctfilmfest.com or in a 20-page insert into The News-Times on Sunday May 31.

Tickets may be purchased online at the same www.ctfilmfest.com or at the CityCenter Box Office at the corner of Main and West streets. A satellite box office will be set up at the Danbury Ice Arena June 4, 5 and 6 for the events there.

Already the Festival has been featured in The New York Times and The News-Times. Upcoming will a week-long advertising campaign on Fox 61 out of Hartford. Connecticut Magazine also did a feature story about former Sopranos star Joey Pantoliano whose film, "No Kidding, Me Too" will play on Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. at The Palace. This will be a fund-raiser for Interlude and Catholic Charities.