

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
March 12, 2007

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## **Not the Hartford They Know**

Bob Englehart's March 7 cartoon of Metlife's Snoopy dodging bullets in Hartford is provocative without having the intellectual integrity that really good editorial cartoons require. It plays on urban stereotypes (flying bullets, needles and trash at Snoopy's feet) that only reinforce misinformed opinions about the city.

Unfortunately, The Courant helps keep such stereotypes alive with sensational coverage and negative images of the city. There are hundreds of good things happening each day in Hartford, yet suburbanites only hear about the bad ones. Why is that? Because good news doesn't sell?

As a Hartford resident, I live in a lovely, safe neighborhood that provides convenience and a good lifestyle. Englehart's cartoon doesn't reflect my town; only his sensationalistic view of it.

**Amy Robinson**  
**Hartford**

Mr. Englehart only serves to stoke the misperception that downtown Hartford is an unsafe place.

The statistical reality is that Hartford's central business district is among the safest in the Northeast. Crime citywide is down more than 7 percent since Police Chief Daryl Roberts took command less than a year ago.

The financial reality is that developers continue to invest in the city; companies such as Prudential Financial, Travelers and Lincoln Financial are renewing and/or expanding their leases; and new businesses are opening up on a regular basis.

The police department and mayor's office are working hard to maintain a safe and clean downtown. In addition, the Hartford Business Improvement District, in partnership with the city, will soon launch its own team of ambassadors and clean-streets crew members in the downtown and Asylum Hill neighborhoods to continue to improve the safety, cleanliness and quality of life of the city.

Property owners voted overwhelmingly late last year to invest in the new Business Improvement District and focus additional resources on safe and clean services.

There is momentum in downtown Hartford that cannot be ignored, and the revitalization of the city will continue despite the unfortunate musings of Mr. Englehart.

**Michael Zaleski**  
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**Hartford**