



**MAYOR JOSEPH P. GANIM
BRIDGEPORT, CT**

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GANIM APPLAUDS OPENING OF NEW 'WORTH' UNIT AT YORK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN ONCE RELEASED

**MAYOR ATTENDS OPENING OF NEW UNIT AT YORK WOMEN'S PRISON IN NIANTIC,
VOWS TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR EX-OFFENDERS TO GET A TRUE SECOND CHANCE**

BRIDGEPORT, CT – Mayor Joe Ganim today is praising the Connecticut Department of Corrections and Commissioner Scott Semple for launching a new unit at the facility in Niantic, CT entitled the 'WORTH' unit – designed to reduce recidivism by incarcerated women once they complete their sentences. WORTH stands for 'Women Overcoming Recidivism through Hard Work' and it will focus on providing life coaching and professional readiness to incarcerated women between the ages of 18-25 prior to release from sentence. Mayor Ganim – also a previously incarcerated person – attended the opening of the WORTH unit in Niantic, CT and issued the following statement:

“It was so inspiring to be in the company of women who may have made serious mistakes in life but who are determined and looking forward to a second chance. I was touched by the stories of the women at York prison and the strength they show to make positive changes in their lives. I went through a similar experience and transition when I was given a second chance. I think the Department of Corrections and Commissioner Semple are making an optimum impact by providing this specific age population a pre-release program because this is a formative time when young people are still figuring out who they are. It is a time that guidance, training, and professional tools to assist with difficulties such as substance abuse or trauma and mental health challenges, can better prepare a person to returning to their community. We have more than 24,000 people including thousands of women who re-enter their communities from Connecticut prisons every year. The more we can do to provide resources for individuals become a success on the outside, the better the outcome for them to become productive members of their families and communities. We still have much more to do, but this is certainly a positive stride in the right direction to reduce recidivism and offer a real second chance.”