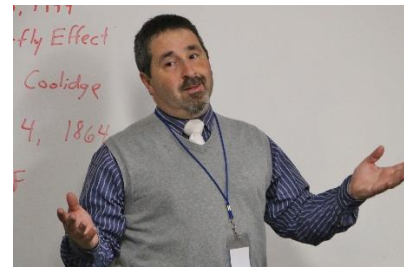




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Why NOT Mr. Arunalpalam?

Mark Stewart addresses the problem with Arunan.

The Democratic Party's mayor nominee, Arunan Arunalpalam, is not currently good for Hartford. Arunan COULD change, quickly. If he does, I not only would embrace him and his abilities, I'd welcome his becoming my successor.

Arunan's big problem greatly affects Hartford: **he is part of the Democrat Establishment. Democrats have run Hartford for over 50 years. For the last 30 of those years, very few aspects of Hartford have improved.**

More importantly, Hartford residents, workers, and business owners see no hope of dramatic improvement with Democrats in power nationally. Democratic Party leaders in Congress, and now the presidency, want to constrict individuals from improving. They remove what little power individuals have and give it to big corporations, with whom they tie themselves in an unholy alliance.

The big parties, but Democrats especially, do little to uplift the poor. Democrats used to. Now they keep most poor people poor. They stymie generational wealth by preventing parents from having school choice. They exacerbate crime by keeping urban schools from having the best teachers. For those who stay in school they allow them to hear scary falsities, like "we will be asphyxiated by climate change", like America is an "evil nation", and like Black students have no hope because "systemic racism is out to get them".

Democrat leaders leave neighborhoods plagued by crime LESS safe. They excuse criminality and do not take real criminals off the streets. Both parties, but Democrats moreso, elevate crime by not enforcing criminal penalties. EVERY Democrat leader stood by while their colleagues demanded cities "Defund the Police", literally the stupidest idea in Western civilization. Lowered policing means more stores robbed, more cars astolen, and more women subject to domestic violence.

Middle class? Democrats nationally have presided over the extinction of the American middle class. This is not happenstance; it's government POLICY. Illegal immigration has depressed wages. High taxes (due to needless government spending) keep middle income workers from rising the way we were accustomed to. And wayward deployment (paying people who DON'T want to work, and paying grad students who took expensive loans) means taking taxes from well-meaning people and spending on undeserving people.

The Arunan problem is especially acute for Black families, who are still under-represented among high earners. The Social Security system takes disproportionately more from Black workers and pays out disproportionately less (ridiculously less if husband and wife pass away before retirement age – for all their extracted earnings, they take out ZERO). Illegal immigrants burden urban hospitals. international “baby-dropping” yields children who take the places of African-Americans in schools. And the reduced credentials the Democrats encourage for illegals flatten many African Americans’ earning prospects.

School monopolies the Democrat elites support leave most African Americans with sub-standard educations. The social policies elite Democrats support encourage most many urban American women to go husband-less, churchless, and friendless (needing three jobs, it’s really hard to keep tight friendships) Democrats’ urban policies thus unduly pressure many young Black moms. With all the government does to disempower, it’s AMAZING how resilient most Black families are.

They’ll give a few government jobs to urban families, but those come at the tail end of their handouts. For every state dollar paid to Black Hartford construction workers, nearly eleven dollars go to design firms, environmental consultants, lawyers, testing firms, and government specialists, most of whom are white, usually from outside the city, often outside the state.

Arunan has not advocated dramatic change from **any** of this. Nor has any big-city Democrat mayor. The Democrat Establishment thus will go its merry way, supporting fat-cat teacher unions that give them votes, while neglecting real problems of low job creation, high crime, and bad schools. The Establishment does NOT support good education, does NOT support small businesses, does NOT support police, and does NOT support women.

Arunan is clearly talented. He’s well-meaning. But well-meaning doesn’t translate into good policies. Of late, it has translated into downright diabolical dictates: urban Democrats closed churches, shuttered businesses, fired employees, stifled schooling, and kept imperiled people in nursing homes. Covid shutdowns made us more repressive than most 3rd world governments, and cost us more money than all of America’s wars combined.

Minorities suffered the most from Covid shutdowns. Democrat leaders have reparations to pay. Though almost impossible, at minimum they should NOT be in power to do shutdowns again.

Mr. Arunalpalam is NOT what most of us Democrats signed on for. Some day, I’d like Arunan on MY team, the liberty-minded “Stewart For Hartford” team. If and when he casts aside the Democrat leadership and is ready to start anew, I welcome him. Until then, let others, insiders and Outsiders, help Hartford. Citizens, not long-standing government employees, armed with energy, passion, smarts, and good ideas, can improve Hartford better than any one mayor in a major party establishment.

Consider me a “maestro”: good at evaluating talents and deploying them in win-win ways, with citizens doing what they love, turning Hartford’s decline into uplift. Arunan seems to be “exhibit A” in talent not yet deployed well. Short of the Party establishment, indeed as a voice AGAINST established policies that are Hurting Hartford, Arunan will **then** be a big help.