



## NEWS RELEASE

### Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz and Strategic Outreach Services

---

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 12, 2017

Contact: Elin Swanson Katz  
Office: (860) 827-2901  
Email: [Elin.Katz@ct.gov](mailto:Elin.Katz@ct.gov)

Janice Flemming-Butler  
860-597-8881  
Email: [j.flemming@vowoc.org](mailto:j.flemming@vowoc.org)

### **\*\*\*PRESS ADVISORY\*\*\***

#### **STRATEGIC OUTREACH SERVICES AND OFFICE OF STATE BROADBAND TO RELEASE REPORT ON BROADBAND INTERNET “HOMEWORK GAP” IN HARTFORD’S NORTH END**

**(HARTFORD, CT) – At 2:15 pm on Thursday, July 13 at the Collin Bennett Building, 1229 Albany Avenue, Hartford,** Strategic Outreach Services (SOS), a strategic communications firm led by Janice Flemming-Butler, and the Office of State Broadband (Broadband Office), which is part of the State of Connecticut’s Office of Consumer Counsel led by Elin Swanson Katz, will release a report, *Assessment of the Broadband “Homework Gap” In Hartford*, detailing the barriers to high-speed internet access faced by students in the North End of Hartford.

Specifically, the *Assessment* details outreach efforts by Mrs. Flemming-Butler and Consumer Counsel Katz that revealed a gap between the availability of high-speed internet for student research and completion of homework in the suburbs and the lack of such availability in many homes in the North End of Hartford. This troubling situation, dubbed the “Homework Gap,” negatively impacts the educational opportunities of North End students.

## WHO

- Janice Flemming-Butler, Voices of Women of Color and Strategic Outreach Services
- Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin
- Connecticut Comptroller Kevin Lembo
- Hartford Council President T.J. Clarke
- Craig Stallings, Hartford Board of Education Chair
- Milly Arciniegas, Executive Director, Hartford Parent University
- **Hartford High School Student**
- Denise Best, Chair, Upper Albany Neighborhood Revitalization Zone

## WHERE

Collin Bennett Building, 1229 Albany Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut

## WHEN

2:15 PM

*Assessment of the Broadband “Homework Gap” In Hartford* will be available on the Office of Consumer Counsel website at [www.ct.gov/occ](http://www.ct.gov/occ) after 10 am on Thursday, July 13, 2017.

###

*The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut’s independent advocate for consumers on issues relating to electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications. For more information, visit [www.ct.gov/occ](http://www.ct.gov/occ). The State Broadband Office (SBO) is part of the Office of Consumer Counsel by statute, and works to facilitate the availability of broadband access to every state citizen and to increase access to and the adoption of ultra-high-speed gigabit capable broadband networks.*

*Strategic Outreach Services (SOS) is a strategic communications enterprise led by Janice Flemming-Butler, a longtime community organizer and founder of the Voices of Women of Color in Hartford, Connecticut.*