
WATERBURY OIC

VOL. 2, NO.7



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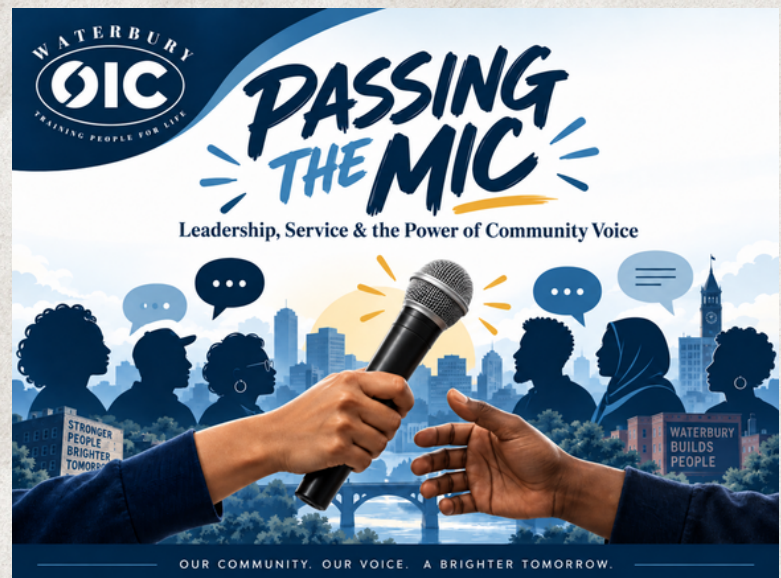


JULY 2026

RINGING THE BELL: THEN & NOW

THEN — July 2016: Using Your Voice in Service to Others

In the July 2016 edition of Ringing the Bell, Reggie Beamon reflected on leadership, service, and the importance of using one's voice to strengthen the community. He shared stories of women whose lives demonstrated leadership through education, advocacy, faith, and service, recognizing those who were willing to speak up, encourage others, and contribute to the well-being of their communities. The column closed by ringing the bell for women who “speak up, lead, and fulfill community service.”



NOW — July 2026: Passing the Mic

Ten years later, WOIC continues to believe that strong communities are built when people have the confidence and opportunity to use their voices.

That belief is taking on a new form through Voices of Waterbury, WOIC's six-session media training program launching in August. Participants will learn how storytelling, communications, and digital media can be used to share experiences, promote businesses, strengthen organizations, and create new career opportunities.

Today's microphone may be a camera, podcast, social media platform, or digital campaign—but the principle remains the same: our community is stronger when its people are equipped to speak, lead, create, and be heard.

We're still ringing the bell—for the people finding their voices and using them to move Waterbury forward.

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WATERBURY STORIES SHOULD BE TOLD BY WATERBURY VOICES

Every community has a story.

It lives in the experiences of its residents, the history of its neighborhoods, the businesses that open their doors every morning, the organizations working behind the scenes, and the people who continue to believe that Waterbury's best days are still ahead.

But too often, communities like ours are talked about rather than heard from.

Communication is a workforce skill.

Businesses need people who can create content. Nonprofits need people who can communicate impact. Entrepreneurs need to tell customers why their products and services matter. Communities need people who understand how to document their history, celebrate their successes, and make sure their voices are part of the larger conversation.

For more than 50 years, OIC has believed that education and training should lead to opportunity. As the skills needed in today's workforce change, our responsibility is to continue creating pathways that prepare people for what comes next.

Sometimes that means computer literacy.

Sometimes it means career readiness.

Sometimes it means learning how to tell a story.

And sometimes, the first step toward opportunity is simply having the confidence to pick up the microphone.