



CITY OF PLAINFIELD

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS
CITY HALL

515 WATCHUNG AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060
(908) 226-2507



Terry West

PRESS RELEASE

June 14, 2012

For Immediate Release

MAYOR SHARON ROBINSON-BRIGGS HOSTS FLAG POLE DEDICATION FOR NATIONAL FLAG DAY

PLAINFIELD – On Thursday, June 14, 2012, Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs hosted a flag pole dedication ceremony for the restored 1918 flag pole at City Hall’s Veterans Memorial. Guests included the newly created Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Father Luis Gonzalez of St. Mary’s Catholic Church.

The origins of the Plainfield flag pole

After much research, it was discovered that our tapered, wooden flag pole was created by Annin Flagmakers. In the early twentieth century, Annin Flagmakers provided direct sales of wooden flag poles at that time. The Plainfield flag pole was purchased sometime between 1918 and 1919. The pole was installed in 1919. It is believed that the flag pole was cut from a single tree and stood seventy feet tall. Today, Annin & Co. no longer manufacture wooden flag poles.

Annin & Co was established in 1847 on Fulton Street in New York City. By the mid-twentieth century, Annin Flagmakers had become the premier flag maker in the United States and changed its name to Annin & Co. which is reflected in the original cleat that was attached at the base of the pole.

Annin & Co. made historic flags for ...

- Admiral Byrd’s North Pole Landing.
- Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin’s planting of the US flag on the moon’s surface in 1969.
- The posting of the first and second U.S. flags at Iwo Jima.
- An Annin flag was hung during the 50th Anniversary of The George Washington Bridge dedication ceremony in 1981.
- And most recently, the infamous flag flown at Ground Zero in the days following 9/11.

Continued



CITY OF PLAINFIELD

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS
CITY HALL

515 WATCHUNG AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060
(908) 226-2507



Terry West

The removal of the Plainfield flag pole

Over the years, natural elements began to destroy the wooded base of the pole. During a heavy storm in September 2010, the pole shifted in its base and quickly became a safety hazard to pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

The restoration of the Plainfield flag pole

The city's Parks and Recreation Department quickly removed the pole from its base. The flag pole was taken to the Public Works yard where it sat until the spring of 2012. With the assistance of Tom Potenzone of International Flags Decorating Corporation, the Plainfield Public Works Department began the extensive process of restoring the original flag pole.

"I must commend Eric Jackson and John Louise for their commitment to restore and resurrect the original flag pole," said Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs. *

Public Works employees stripped the multiple layers of paint from the pole. After careful inspection, it was determined that another five feet of rotted wood still remained. Following the removal of the damaged wood, the employees began the repair process of filling cracks with the appropriate caulking (oakum and waterproofing material) for aged wood.

The pole's surface was carefully sanded and treated before applying an undercoat and the final coat of white enamel paint on Monday, June 11, 2012 for National Flag Day. A new Aluminum Flash Collar, a Gold Aluminum Ball, and a cleat were purchased. The original hardware is in storage at the Public Works yard. Currently, the pole stands at fifty-nine feet and is expected to stand for the duration of this century.

The original base was removed during the 1950s and replaced with a concrete base. The replacement base still remains today.

Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs hosted the dedication and unveiling of the 93 year-old Plainfield flag pole at Veterans Memorial on the lawn of City Hall. City Hall is located at 515 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

###

NOTE: Tonight Mayor Robinson-Briggs welcomes Plainfield's Boy Scout Troop 5 along with the Commanders of American Legion Post 219 and VFW Post 7474 for a lowering of the flag ceremony, an official lighting ceremony, and the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 5 at 7:45 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial on the lawn of City Hall. City Hall is located at 515 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

* Eric Jackson is the Director of Public Works and Urban Development and John Louise is the Superintendent of Public Works.