



CITY OF PLAINFIELD

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MAYOR ADRIAN MAPP INTRODUCES BALANCED, ON-TIME BUDGET

Plainfield, NJ – March 20, 2014 – Mayor Adrian Mapp today presented the proposed 2014 budget to the City Council, the earliest a budget has been submitted to the City Council in 8 years. The budget was to have been presented at the Council meeting originally scheduled for Monday, March 10, but because of the rescheduled meeting, Council members received the budget on Friday, March 14, and the first presentation was made at tonight’s Council meeting.

“We promised to begin the process of putting Plainfield’s fiscal house in order with the submission of an on-time budget,” Mayor Mapp said. “More importantly, it is a balanced budget that invests in Plainfield’s future --including our children, our most important investment.”

The \$75 million budget proposes a municipal tax rate of 4.290, a .114 percent increase over last year’s tax rate of 4.176. Taxes on a home assessed at \$113,000 would see an increase of \$129.37. The 2013 municipal tax rate of 4.176 resulted in an increase of \$166.06 on a home assessed at \$113,000.

“Plainfield homeowners are carrying an increasing burden from the lack of commercial and industrial ratables in our city,” said Mayor Mapp. “We made the decision to draw down on our surplus to offer them relief with this budget, but the only way we can significantly decrease that tax burden is to rebrand our city and increase economic development. At the same time, we must invest in our own community and in our youth.”

The proposed 2014 budget makes a significant investment in the education, health and safety of the children of Plainfield. It also responds to residents’ requests for enhanced public safety and invests in the rebranding and imaging of the City that is vital to attracting new business.

“I’m very proud of the fact that this budget doubles our summer youth employment program expenditures,” said Mayor Mapp. “The future of our city depends upon our children’s future. Providing summer employment opportunities for our youth increases their economic livelihood and improves their chances of career success, while also improving the economic wellbeing of our city.”

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“By far, the largest portion of the budget – 35 percent – goes toward public safety,” said Mayor Mapp. “Much of that is fixed because of negotiated salary agreements. As we begin our economic development campaign, we will utilize immediate economic reforms that are closer at hand, including auctioning foreclosed properties and selling city-owned tax title liens, which can potentially bring in roughly \$4 million to the city.”

The budget also relies upon seeking and obtaining increased grant funding for the city and increasing the tax collection rate. Cost savings will be realized from improved efficiencies in technology and payroll systems.

“Bringing fiscal stability to Plainfield will not be accomplished completely in the next year,” said Mayor Mapp. “However, we can begin to incorporate sound fiscal practices immediately, which will enable us to reach our financial goals.” Mayor Mapp noted that these practices include seeking an increase in the municipal bond rating, an analysis of capital ordinances and all PILOT agreements, and addressing all auditor recommendations.

The complete 2014 budget can be found online at www.plainfieldnj.gov/news-media.aspx.

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