

Mayor Adrian O. Mapp

Town Hall: Progress and Projects

City of Plainfield

This Newsletter Captures highlights from Mayor Adrian O. Mapp’s Town Hall meeting , which took place on July 31, 2014.



Office of the Mayor

Since taking office as Mayor of Plainfield on January 1, 2014, I have been committed to driving Plainfield forward. My passion is being a true *Public Servant* and I am dedicated to that calling. Never have the words “One Plainfield – One Future” rung more true. The Mapp Administration has strategically been working in the areas of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, Administration and Finance, and Economic Development to move Plainfield forward. A few accomplishments to note: Plainfield Mass Communication System (PMCS), Violent Crime is down 32%, Introduced a \$75 million budget on time, Inventory of Abandoned Homes, Securing funding for Rushmore & Siedler Field, a unified Plainfield Baseball League, and all season curbside pick ups. Residents have been very pleased with these additional pick-ups as it has helped with the management of their properties over the summer months and resulted in the absence of debris from city streets. As you read this newsletter, there will be **highlights** supporting accomplishments and this only reflects the first six months since I have been in office. I look forward to even more progress during the next six months and serving all the residents of Plainfield.

Sincerely,

Adrian O. Mapp

Mayor, City of Plainfield

Department Updates

- Rick Smiley **City Administrator**

- Carl Riley **Public Affairs & Safety**

- Rick Smiley **Department of Public Works**
(Acting)
- Ron West **Administration and Finance**

- Carlos Sanchez **Economic Development**

- John Stewart **Office of the Mayor**

City Hall
 515 Watchung Ave. Plainfield, NJ, 07060
www.plainfieldnj.gov



Office of the Mayor: *Innovation, Community Outreach, and Communications*

During the first six months of the Administration, the Mayor's Office had launched the following in support of the Mayor's commitment to improving the quality of life for all Plainfield residents.

Innovation and Communications:

- (PMCS) Plainfield Mass Communications System – Communications from the Mayor, updates, and emergency notices via phone, text, fax, and email
- Nixel – Emergency Text Notifications

Resources:

ACA (Affordable Care Act): The Administration had partnered with the Urban League and provided resources for residents to sign up. The Administration will provide resources for the Next Enrollment period scheduled for November 2014. For the first time, the Mayor had partnered with the USPS (US Postal Service) and held a job fair where over 700 residents were in attendance.

Coming soon:

- For Local Businesses: Department of Labor Seminar-RECOVERY4JERSEY - On the Job Training Grant
- Mayor's partnership with FedEx Freight to hold a Job Informational Session and Job Fair in October.
- Partnering with the Edison Job Corps Academy to provide jobs and resources.



Email Communications from the Mayor

In the Mayor's efforts to communicate to residents in a timely fashion, the Administration has developed an email communications tool to send out updates, reports, and announcements from the Mayor's Office.

If you are interested in receiving these updates, please email:

Cynthia.blake@plainfieldnj.gov

Marilyn.nieves@plainfield.gov

By Phone (908-753-3310)



Public Affairs and Safety

Police Division

Reconstructed the following command staff and bureaus to maximize resources to better support operational and administrative activities as well as accountability: The Administrative Bureau, Support Bureau, Patrol Bureau, Investigation Bureau, and Office of Professional Standards Bureau.

Increased in-service training for Supervisors (traditional & online methods)

Conduct monthly law enforcement sensitive meetings with various local, county, state and federal agencies to share timely and accurate intelligence information.

Implemented DDACS (Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety) and Mobile Command Center is more mobile in crime hotspot areas.

Violent crimes including murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault are on a downward trend with a 32% reduction in comparison to last year. We have recovered 36 guns from the streets this year.

Community Oriented Policing Unit has been highly active with businesses and community groups by holding routine meetings.

Fire Division

Fire Officers have been attending command level training programs

Secured Elmwood Gardens complex for Hands On Training (H.O.T) Fire Division and Law Enforcement personnel.

Received approval for purchase of a Multi Vocational Pumper that will enhance the fire division's firefighting capabilities.

The fire division was awarded a \$284,000.00 grant through FEMA for an emergency backup generator for headquarters.

Presented Autism Awareness class to fire department personnel.

OEM

OEM Coordinator attended several training courses. He has linked with state and federal databases to obtain various equipment and resources.

Nixle and Plainfield Mass Communication notification systems implemented.



Violent crimes including murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault are on a downward trend with a 32% reduction in comparison to last year. We have recovered 36 guns from the streets this year.

Established new mission statement for Police Division, which reads, "The mission of the Plainfield Police Division is to provide a safe and secure city through fair and impartial enforcement of the laws, community partnership, and by maintaining high standards of excellence. Members of the division are required to have integrity and respect for the law enforcement profession and the community. The division will be responsive to the needs of the citizens by providing service with honor. The badge is a symbol of public trust. All members are required to wear it with great pride. "

Department of Public Works

The primary focus for the first half of this year for the Division of Public Works has been driven by the unusual weather pattern. Early snow fall, record amounts of snow and ice followed by an increased number of pothole repairs kept our team very busy. The team was able to respond to these issues and keep our streets open for emergency responses, our residents and business community.



Three new programs were introduced; the Pothole Killer, extended curbside collections that include summer months and weekend hours for residents to drop off vegetated yard waste.

Listed below are some highlights:

Snow & Deicing Operations:

- The Division responded to eight (8) inclement snow/weather events. All primary and secondary roads were completed within 16 hours after the end of the snow event. Sidewalks & parking lots were completed within 24 hours.
- The addition of our new de-icing material "liquid brim" helped keep rock salt usage to a minimum. As A result, the Division had an adequate supply and did not run out of Salt like many of the surrounding town experienced this winter.

Road Maintenance:

- Received and responded to over 2,130 requests for services and DPW applied 558 Tons of material

New service:

- Pothole killer operated from May 14 To May 29th. Spending five (5) days in each section of town. Applying over 72 Tons of stone, 2,530 gallons of liquid emulsion.

New service:

- Three (3) weekends drop off dates at the Public works Yard and summer curbside collection of vegetated Yard waste.
- Yard waste collection totals to date heavy wood/tree parts 79.39 tons. Vegetated Brush 861.28 tons and yard waste 378.44 tons.

Engineering Division

Roadway Improvements

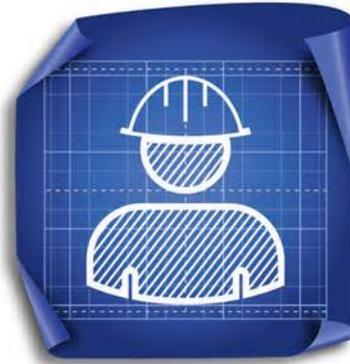
West Third Street (Border of Piscataway to Clinton Ave) - COMPLETED

Leland Court/Carlisle Terrace (work to begin early fall)

Inter-local Shared Service Agreements

Park Ave – COMPLETED

Plainfield Ave – COMPLETED



Recreation Division

Completed summer staff hiring, total 78. Remediated pool issues and opened pools on scheduled dates; pools now are open 7 days per week.

Implemented free lunch program at all parks and pools.

Piloted free-swimming program lessons at 2 pools.

Resolved outstanding issues with the merging of the two baseball leagues and conducted a successful opening day.

Completed the 4th of July parade.

Set up task force to evaluate the status of the Arts Festival

Proposed and received approval for online registration and recreational management software, Community Pass.

Partnered with Plainfield High School to successfully recruit and train a complete complement of lifeguards.

Inspections: Construction

Issued 733 Permits

Collected \$1,500,00 Penalties

Collected \$216,639.00 in Permit Fees

Inspections: Code Enforcement

Issued 7,619 Notices

Issued 2,145 Summonses

Collected \$46,761.00 in Court Fees

Collected \$22,064.50 Certificate & Misc. Fees

Grand Total Collected: \$286,964.50

Administration & Finance

Administration

- Introduced a \$75 million budget on time.
- Completed an analysis of the pros and cons for remaining in the County network or going out on our own for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG.)
- Issued either request for quotes or proposals for a website re-design, an HRIS system, and an application to help manage licenses, forms, approval requests.
- Established a committee to address abandoned and foreclosed properties.



Audit and Control

- Cleaned-up old capital ordinances and reallocated \$653,000 in funds for road repairs.
- Reviewing all PILOT agreements. Identified \$45,000 in additional Park Madison funds due the City annually.
- CY 2013 audit is underway.

Bilingual Day Care

- All 69 students met their developmental objectives for the year.
- An analysis is underway to determine options for the long term administration of the program

Health Division

- Conducted a review and discovered only 20% of retail food establishments were inspected on average per year.
- Conducted 557 overall inspections to date.
- Initiated the first annual Mayor Mapp Wellness walk.

Purchasing

- Issued 37 bid proposals and or pricing requests to the public.
- Issued 2,835 purchase orders
- Saved \$11,414 in electricity charges.
-

Information Technology and Media

- Several infrastructure assessments have been completed and we can substantially improve the utilization of IT throughout the City and save over \$50,000 per year.
- Media has produced more than 50 programs year to date.

Personnel (Human Resources)

- Successfully recruited for three (3) senior level positions.
- Recruitment and processing for 231 summer/seasonal program hires.
- Finalized an agreement with the FOA for

Plainfield Action Services

- Negotiated renewal of a grant for \$196,000.
- Rebuilt the board (5 new members).
- Hired 153 youth and young adults for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Municipal Court

- Issued 2,034 criminal summonses and disposed of 2,226 criminal cases.
- Issued 9,353 traffic summonses and disposed of 9,955 traffic cases.
- Generated \$415,383.90 in City revenue and \$836,409.18 in total revenue.

Senior Center

- 4,500 one-way transports were provided for members from Jan. thru June.
- Over 100 transportation trips provided to restaurants, dept. stores, grocery store, movies, health programs, plays & educational forums etc.
- Information & assistance provided to an average of 50 clients per month. Including but not limited to Medicare information, bills (electric, water) affordable care, wills, etc.

Tax Assessor

- Completed the last court hearing date that addressed 377 appeals filed at the Union County Board of Taxation.
- Property Committee has identified properties no longer needed for public use and can now be offered for auction.
- Working on determining an appropriate fee scale for owners who neglect to maintain their properties thus requiring the City to provide upkeep.
- Will enlist the assistance of local banks to provide funds for rehabilitation of these properties.

Tax Collector

- There were 822 Properties with outside liens as of Jan. 1, 2014.
 - As of July 24, 2014 the number of outside liens is **544** a reduction of **278**.
 - As of July 24th \$4,012,198.20 in redemption money for outside lien holders was collected.
 - As of Jan. 1, 2014, **76** properties had city liens.
 - As of July 24 that number has been reduced by **13**, leaving **63** properties remaining.
 - Of the **63** properties the City assigned **20** of them to third parties who will pay the current year taxes, which will help with the 2014 percentage of tax collection.
 - A Foreclosure Docket has been prepared to address the **43** remaining liens to start the foreclosure process on at least **23**.
 - Begun Tax Sale process for unpaid municipal charges due the City and the PMUA for delinquencies as of Dec. 31, 2013.
 - As of July 24, 2014 Tax Office collected the following additional revenue for calendar year 2013:
- | | <u>Yr. 2014</u> | <u>Yr. 2013</u> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Tax Search Fee | \$ 353.00 | \$ 470.00 |
| Duplicate Redemption fee | \$ 450.00 | \$ 20.00 |
| Tax Sale Cancellation fee | \$ 4,830.00 | \$ 3,615.00 |
| Copy fees | \$ 675.90 | \$ 9.60 |
| Interest and cost for Delinquent Taxes | \$436,001.68 | \$1,064.627.12 |

Mayor Adrian O. Mapp
 City Hall
 Office of the Mayor
 515 Watchung Ave.
 Plainfield, NJ 07060

PRSRT STD
 US Postage
 PAID
 Permit# 1512
 New Brunswick, NJ

Economic Development

Pilot One Seat Ride to NY approved by NJ Transit- City embarked on a mini media / marketing campaign to promote and encourage ridership. March 3, 2014 Mayor rode the train to NY with other key elected officials from the neighboring cities and counties. Our marketing campaign included promotional videos (English/Spanish), flyers, website exposure and continued participation with the Raritan Valley Coalition.

City and Google initiated a partnership to present the “Plainfield Get Your Business ONLINE” program, which was launched and presented to the public in March 2014. The program’s goal is to encourage and assist all businesses in Plainfield to have a WEBSITE to promote their business. Over 25 Plainfield businesses took advantage of the program and now have a presence on the web.

Façade and Sign Grant program- seven UEZ Plainfield businesses have benefited from the program, however, there are still funds available and we are encouraging business to take advantage of this grant program. The program provides UEZ certified businesses with grant funding for up to 75% of the cost of improvements with a maximum of \$25,000 per store / client.

Muhlenberg Tract Study – Consultants for the proposed site study were hired late 2013- with the direction and vision of our new Mayor the administration began the study on February 14, 2014. There were three (3) community meetings conducted

during the months of March and April 2014 at various locations. The study has been completed and the report from the study is now available on the City’s website.

Liberty Village- worked with owner of the 96 unit affordable housing complex to sell and incorporate new management for the facility. The proposed transaction included the negotiation of an extension and assignment of an existing PILOT agreement with the new owner TRYKO. The closing of the transaction took place in early July 2014.

Development News

- The City of Plainfield received New Jersey Department of Transportation Transit Village designation Transit Oriented Development – Downtown rezoning of the downtown area.
- Dunkin’ Donuts at corner of West Front Street/Clinton Avenue.
- Construction of a three-story building with a 9,280 square foot first floor retail footprint, and second and third floors of 12, 300 sq. each for a total of 20 apartments and a 55 car parking lot at 719-731 west Front Street.
- Conversion of a four-story vacant office building to 2,920 SF of first floor retail space, and a total of 9 residential apartments on the upper three floors at 332 West Front Street. (Red Cross)
- Capital Improvement Program – The PB is mid-way through their hearings for the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), having heard from the police, fire, and planning divisions and as well as the public library and Drake House.