

COUNTY OF MERCER

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HUGHES, MAYORS ANNOUNCE REVITALIZATION GRANTS FOR TRENTON FARMER'S MARKET

LAWRENCE—Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes along with Ewing Township Mayor Jack Ball and Lawrence Township Mayor Greg Puliti today announced two substantial grants to revitalize and redevelop the Trenton Farmers' Market and its environs.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission awarded Mercer County \$125,000 through the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) to prepare a plan for transportation improvements around the market, while the New Jersey Department of Agriculture awarded the Farmers' Market \$50,000 toward sprucing up the property.

“We are re-envisioning this entire area as a showplace for Lawrence, Ewing, and Trenton and as an economic engine for all three communities,” said Hughes, who was also joined by Mercer County Freeholder Pat Colavita Jr. and New Jersey Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Al Murray. “This area, with the Farmers' Market as its center, is brimming with opportunity for both the farmers and the residents of this region.”

The Trenton Farmers' Market dates to the early 1900s and moved to its current location 60 years ago on the site of a former turkey farm on what is now Spruce Street on the Lawrence-Ewing border. The market sells a variety of Jersey Fresh produce daily along with a wide selection of meats, cheeses, seafood, gourmet items, and flowers.

The \$125,000 grant through the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) will allow Mercer County and its municipal partners to identify potential improvements to traffic patterns on Spruce Street and connecting roads. The TCDI program promotes economic growth and commercial development through transportation.

The Department of Agriculture's \$50,000 grant will be used to revitalize the market itself. Approximately half will be used to study improvements on physical facilities such as electricity and plumbing, while \$20,000 will be put toward the creation of a new, more attractive "gateway" entrance into the Trenton Farmers' Market.

"The market is a jewel and we want it to remain that way," said Mayor Ball, who is also the Trenton Farmers' Market co-manager.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Al Murray said the department jumped at the chance to help revitalize the well-known produce market, calling it an institution that cannot be neglected.

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