

## Coming Together For Camden

*From Education Reform And Economic Development To A Vastly Improved Police Force, The Christie Administration And It's Local Partners Are Coming Together In A Historic Manner To Turn Camden Around*

*"I love this city and I believe that families in this city deserve better than what's happening right now, so we're going to work hard together to get there and do it together."*

*– Governor Chris Christie, Camden, NJ, 9/10/13*

### **UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENT**

Combating a public safety crisis, Governor Christie has taken aggressive action to bring about a sweeping reformation of police services in the City of Camden. With the support of the Christie Administration, the City and County of Camden implemented a ground-breaking reform by creating a county-wide force that is putting more cops on the streets of Camden, and more resources at their disposal.

- **More Officers On The Streets:** Under the reorganization, the number of police officers patrolling Camden's streets has already increased from 160 to 376. With another class of cadets already in training, the force will increase to over 400 officers.
- **Cutting Edge Crime-Fighting Technology:** The new Camden County Police Force is utilizing state-of-the-art technology and techniques to combat the city's crime epidemic. From its Real-Time Crime Center, the new force can monitor over 120 citywide cameras and 35 microphones which can instantly pinpoint the exact location of a gunshot.
- **A Focus On Community Outreach:** City and police officials are emphasizing outreach to community leaders and one-on-one interactions between officers and residents as a cornerstone to ingraining the new police force within the neighborhoods they patrol and making the people partners in the effort to curb violence.

#### Early Signs Of Progress:

2012 was the most deadly year in the City of Camden's history, earning the rank of the most violent city in the nation. While there is more work to be done, there have already been signs of progress in curbing crime in the city. As of 2016, Camden experienced sharp reductions in crime compared with the same point in 2012:

- 30 percent Reduction In Homicides
- 43 percent Drop In Robberies
- 8 percent Reduction In Aggravated Assaults
- 21 percent Overall Drop In Violent Crime
- 34 percent Reduction in Non-Violent Crime

PRESIDENT OBAMA: "Camden and its people still face some very big challenges. But this city is on to something. You've made real progress in just two years." (Remarks, 5/18/15)

- *South Jersey Times:* "[Camden Reports 48 Percent Reduction In Gunfire](#)"
- *Associated Press:* "[Murder Rate Falls in Impoverished New Jersey City](#)"
- *New York Times:* "[Camden Turns Around With New Police Force](#)":

*"But mostly, the police have changed their culture. Officers have been moved from desk jobs and squad cars onto walking beats, in what Chief J. Scott Thomson likens to a political campaign to overcome years of mistrust. ...*

*"And while the unrest in Ferguson, Mo., has drawn attention to long-simmering hostilities between police departments and minority communities, Camden is becoming an example of the opposite.*

*"We're not going to do this by militarizing streets,' Chief Thomson said. Instead, he sent officers to knock on doors and ask residents their concerns. He lets community leaders monitor surveillance cameras from their home computers to help watch for developing crime.*

*"The police have held meet-the-officer fairs at parks and churches, attended baseball games and sent Mister Softee trucks into neighborhoods. Officers stand at school crossings and on corners where drugs and violence flourished. Chief Thomson's theory is that in a city of 77,000, there are thousands more well-intentioned people than bad, and that the police must enlist them to take back the streets."*

In September 2015, the Camden County Police Department received a \$2.2 million grant to hire additional officers under the federal [Community Oriented Policing Services](#) program. The federal grant provided through the U.S. Justice Department will allow the county to hire 15 officers. In 2014, the department received \$3.2 million under the same program.

### **HISTORIC CHANGE TO CAMDEN'S SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Believing further inaction in the face of a broken system to be immoral, Governor Christie took decisive action to reform the Camden School District. The Christie Administration, through the new state-appointed superintendent and leadership team, and in coordination with local and community leaders, is taking direct oversight in implementing the necessary reforms of the school district to start delivering better results for Camden students and their families.

Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard has brought renewed energy to the district and implemented a number of significant steps to begin that reform in his first school year:

- The formation of a safety-corridor initiative along with Mayor Dana Redd, that creates safe walking routes for students to and from school;
- Tackling the issue of the district's school drop-outs by going door-to-door to re-enroll students;
- The creation of three new technology demonstration centers to give students access to computer labs and tools needed to prepare for success in a 21st century economy;
- A successful 100-day listening tour which resulted in the participation of hundreds of students, parents and community members who came together on behalf of the future Camden and its schoolchildren;
- Launched first annual Parent Survey to increase feedback; over 1,800 completed during Parent-Teacher conferences;
- Increased feedback for teachers and more individualized instruction for all students, especially students with disabilities.

**On Track For Graduation.** Camden's graduation rate has increased for the fifth straight year, and stands at 70 percent for the 2015 - 2016 school year. (Leslie Brody, Camden Graduation Rate Hits 70%, [Wall Street Journal](#), 12/12/16)

- Since 2012, Camden City School District's graduation rate rose from 49 to 70 percent while the dropout rate fell from 21 to 12 percent.
- Students with IEPs continue to make gains with a graduation rate of 64 percent, up 26 points from 2012
- The dropout rate for English language learners is down a quarter since 2012, and the dropout rate for

African-American students has been cut in half.

### **“SURVEY: CAMDEN SCHOOLS MAKE PROGRESS”**

“A majority of respondents to a Camden School District survey indicate the city district has made progress on its promise to improve safety, school business, student and teacher support and communication with parents...Camden Schools polled 504 people in a month-long survey this summer to gauge district progress in executing five points for improvement Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard identified 18 months ago in the Camden Commitment...the district reported “the majority” of respondents believe it made progress on Camden Commitment promises since the initiative rolled out in 2014. Nearly **70 percent** of respondents indicate the district made progress in training teachers and strengthening curriculum. Respondents indicate the district made the least amount of progress in modernizing schools with new technology, according to the district.” (Carly Q. Romalino, “Survey: Camden schools make progress,” [Courier-Post](#), 8/26/15)

### **BRINGING JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH TO THE CITY**

In September 2013, Governor Christie signed the bipartisan Economic Opportunity Act (EOA), a sweeping overhaul of New Jersey’s Economic Incentive Programs and the result of months of hard work from members of both parties. The EOA specifically refocuses New Jersey’s incentive programs to drive jobs and investment to the State’s most distressed communities through both lowered thresholds to qualify for the programs, as well as increased incentives available.

The EOA designates the most in-need communities as Garden State Growth Zones. The GSGZs are Camden, Trenton, Passaic, Paterson and Atlantic City.

In the City of Camden under the EOA Grow NJ program, 28 projects associated with private investment of **\$1.4 billion** are expected to create more than **1,860 new jobs** and **7,050 construction jobs**, and retain **3,550 jobs**.

- Under the EOA Economic Redevelopment and Growth (ERG) program, six projects in Camden are associated with more than **\$211 million** in private investment, and the creation of nearly 100 new jobs and more than 870 construction jobs.

Since the enactment of the EOA, under the ERG programs, **278 projects** have been approved for up to \$5.36 billion with capital investment of over \$8 billion throughout the State of New Jersey.

- These projects are expected to create more than **35,200 new jobs** and **30,400 construction jobs**, and retain more than **28,800 jobs**.

*New York Times*: “[In Camden, Development Projects Kindle Hope](#)”: “In the last six months, six major development projects have been approved by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority for tax credits worth a total of \$614 million, leading to the creation, retention or relocation of some 2,000 jobs in one of the country’s poorest cities.”

*NJ Spotlight*: “Additional incentives and lower thresholds available exclusively to companies that locate in Camden are giving investors reason to consider the city, perhaps for the first time.” (Tara Nurin, “Early Returns: Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 off to Solid Start,” [NJ Spotlight](#), 3/13/14)

Camden County Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli Jr.: “It’s already having an impact ... We are already getting interest from developers and businesses that want to relocate to Camden. We will be creating over a thousand new jobs this year and millions of dollars in new investment.” (Suzette Parmley, “Economic Opportunity Act already panning out,” [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 3/24/14)

### **Camden Is Beginning To See Major Economic Development Projects:**

- **Camden Waterfront Project**: In September 2015, Governor Christie announced the new \$700 million Camden Waterfront development project. The development is the largest private sector investment in Camden’s history, creating thousands of construction jobs and bringing thousands of permanent jobs to

the city. The plan calls for 1.5 million square feet of office space and includes a hotel and a residential component.

- *The New York Times*: "[A Bold Plan To Remake Camden's Waterfront](#)"
- **Holtec**: Holtec's **\$260 million** investment in the facility is the largest ever capital infusion in the City of Camden. The company, which was approved for \$260 million in Grow NJ tax credits expects to employ nearly 400 people at the manufacturing facility, including welders, machinists, laborers, engineers and corporate staff at the site by summer. Holtec's CEO Dr. Kris Singh has indicated that he expects the company will employ more than 2,000 in Camden by the end of the decade. Holtec's new 6000,000-square-foot manufacturing and design facility on the Camden Waterfront is a state-of-the-art facility that will provide new opportunities for the City of Camden.
  - **Holtec's founder, President and CEO, Dr. Singh**: *"We are acutely aware of our social responsibility. We will work with the State of New Jersey and the City of Camden to leverage our plant to serve as a training academy to help young men and women, especially unemployed Camden residents and veterans, to acquire skills that yield well-paying jobs."*
- **Cooper University Cancer Research Center**: The development of the new \$100 million cancer center created via a partnership between Cooper University and MD Anderson was supported by a \$1 million grant from the Economic Recovery Board for Camden in 2011. MD Anderson is one of the nation's premier cancer treatment and research centers.
- **Rutgers Nursing and Science Building**: Construction has begun on a new Nursing and Science Building at Rutgers University–Camden. The 100,000-square-foot building will be a state-of-the-art, \$62.5 million teaching and research facility that will allow Rutgers to expand its ability to prepare a new generation of science and nursing leaders for New Jersey and the region.
- **Philadelphia 76ers Practice Facility**: A ribbon cutting was held at the Philadelphia 76ers new 120,000-square-foot practice facility on the Camden riverfront in August 2016. Located on a four-acre tract of land that was previously a parking lot, the brand-new \$82 million building, which houses the team's front office operations, has brought more than 250 new and relocated jobs to the city.
- **Subaru of America Headquarters And Service/Training Center**: Construction is underway on Subaru of America's new headquarters and training center, which was approved for up to \$117.8 million in Grow NJ tax credits. This project involves the creation of 100 new jobs, and the retention of 500 "at risk" jobs.
- **Cooper Health Office Consolidation**: Cooper Health is expanding its footprint in the City by consolidating back office operations from various locations to one Camden facility rather than relocating these operations to Philadelphia. Cooper was approved for up to \$39.9 million in tax credits. The project involves the retention of 353 "at risk" jobs and the creation of 19 new jobs.
- **American Water**: A groundbreaking was held in early March for American Water's new 250,000-square-foot headquarters, hosted by American Water and Liberty Property Trust. American Water was approved for \$164 million in Grow NJ tax credits over 10 years, associated with the retention of 596 jobs at risk of leaving the State for Philadelphia, and creation of an additional 100 jobs. The project will consolidate employees from other South Jersey office locations where leases are expiring.
- **EMR Eastern**: Scrap metal recycler EMR Eastern LLC, was approved in September for up to \$252.7 million in Grow NJ tax credits over 10 years, which the company has certified will be a material factor in its decision to either expand in Camden, a Garden State Growth Zone, or at an existing company location in New Orleans. The project is associated with more than 285 new jobs and 1,274 construction jobs and 156 positions at risk of leaving the state. Just 62 of the 156 possibly retained positions are counting towards the project's award eligibility, as they would be new to Camden and coming from other EMR facilities across the state.

- **Resintech:** A manufacturer of resins for water and waste water treatment was approved in October 2016 for Grow NJ tax credits of up to \$138.8 million associated with the creation of a group of buildings in Camden expected to house 173 new employees and 92 retained employees. The project could create more than 600 construction jobs.
- **Lockheed Martin Laboratory Facilities:** Defense contractor Lockheed Martin was approved for up to \$107 million in Grow NJ tax credits to create two fully integrated laboratory facilities in Camden, bringing 250 employees to the City.
- **Cooper Village:** Approved for up to \$6.1 million through the ERG program, this two-phase development will support demand for student and faculty housing in the city, help reduce vacant properties, and expand the stability of the Cooper Plaza Historic District. Developed by Broadway Housing Partners and Ironstone Strategic Capital Partners, Phase I includes the renovation of four buildings, which will house 21 residential units and one commercial unit; Phase II includes the construction of two new buildings, which will feature 38 residential units and one commercial unit.

To take advantage of the momentum in the City, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development is working with Mayor Redd and Camden County College to advance a job training and readiness pathway for City residents. The job training and readiness program is centered on customized customer service, workplace ethics, job counseling, and HUD certified financial literacy training.