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AMBOY GUARDIAN

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Problems Persist: Contracts, Quality of Life & State of Emergency Measures 6/24/20 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconference

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – There was a brief discussion involving Ordinance No. 1 entitled “Administration of Government RE: Division of Engineering.” Council President Bill Petrick wanted to make sure that the applicant also must be a professional planner.

Business Administrator Frederick Carr assured Petrick that this requirement was added per the council’s request.

Petrick then asked, “Do we have a guideline to go on?”

At this point, City Clerk Victoria Kupsch stated, “This position may have to be re-advised and reintroduced because of the added requirement (must be a professional planner).”

The next discussion involved Ordinance No. 2 – Establishing protective measures during a local state of emergency. Carr explained, “We (the city) can cite someone according to our local ordinance and not have to depend on the state requirement.”

Petrick disagreed stating, “I can’t remember a time when the state was not involved in any of our emergencies.”

OEM Coordinator Larry Catano was on the line and explained, “Not everything that happens locally will affect the state (or other municipalities). This (the COVID-19 epidemic) is the longest emergency we ever had and has been unique to our city.”

There was a brief discussion involving R-217 – the purchasing of nets from Storm Trap not to exceed \$25,900. And R-218 – the rehabilitation of well No. 9 for \$18,357 with a contract from AC Schultes and R-219 – A contract with A&D Industrial Pump Repair for the replacement of Well No. 5 pump, motor and valves in the amount not to exceed \$37,000.

B.A. Carr explained that they all had to do with our storm sewers. “There was a temporary connection to the discharge pipe. R-219 did go out for a bid.”

Carr then explained R-220 – 6/20 – An agreement with Cakharyayev Rashvi & Marina for use of property at 86 Smith Street for his Perth Amboy Mural project. “There was an ap-

plication for the city to accept a mural to be placed there. The property owner was okay with the use of their property (for this project). The Arts Council will have to approve the mural. Once they do that, it has to go over to the council for their approval.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry had a question regarding R-221 – A contract with city officials and the Jewish Renaissance RE: COVID-19 response in the amount of \$125,000.

R-221 is in the annual action plan for the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center to assist in the construction of an infectious disease negative pressure suite/wing within its existing facility to include 8 exam rooms dedicated for COVID-19 testing and treatment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Information provided in the backup material)

Irizarry was concerned as to what was going to happen after the pandemic is over. “What will any leftover supplies and ventilators be used for?”

Petrick answered, “I think that this ordinance will be calling for the medical staff at the Jewish Renaissance to be administering vaccines.”

B.A. Carr then spoke up, “This resolution involves cases of coronavirus patients plus other infectious diseases.

Tashi Vazquez, Assistant Director of City’s Office of Economic & Community Development was on the conference call and explained that they will be isolating individuals with COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. “There will be a rehabilitation facility for treatments and other eligible activities. We are following the recommendation given to us by HUD (Housing and Urban Development). In addition, \$388,023.00 was also received and approved by the council in April. This resolution also included grants for small businesses and PPE equipment. This is money from HUD and the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and we came before the council to approve the contract. The summer program money also comes from HUD.”

Petrick then questioned if any of this money would be allocated for administrative fees, “What would be the dollar amount?”

Vazquez responded, “Around 16% of the monies received will be used to offset some of the administrative fees. There will be testing for COVID-19, but not treatment of COVID-19.”

R-223 – A memorandum of agreement between Middlesex County College and the City of Perth Amboy for the Success Bound Program was presented by Angelo Abreu who is Director Middlesex County College. He explained that this program is to engage our youth at Middlesex County College in a partnership and provides internships for our students in Perth Amboy. “I want to thank you (the council) for giving this program a chance. This program will be done virtually and the students participating will get college credit. 40 students are on board and recruitment was through the city’s schools. They will be having enriching summer ahead of them.”

Dianne Roman from Social Services then spoke up to give more detailed information about this program, “We started to promote the Success Bound Program in December. I worked with the Success Bound Coordinator and we talked to students from the high school, charter schools and vocational schools about the opportunities that this program will give them. Students with a grade point average from 2.0 all the way up to 4.0 qualify for this program and they will be working with mentors. After completing their internships, they will be getting letters of recommendation (for any careers they choose to pursue).”

After Roman spoke, Councilman Irizarry told the council he wanted to add a late-starter resolution R-228 – RE: Payment of services to Stateside Affairs.

Petrick questioned if the council received an insurance form from this company.

B.A. Carr answered, “We had to chase them down to get their contract and they did not have an insurance policy. This com-

pany went through an RFQ. We vetted them, but the council took no action. They did the work (public relations) and need to get paid. They were there to get out the word to the residents.”

Petrick then responded, “They were there to help get out the word to help the mayor through an ad. The public should not be funding an ad for the mayor. There was a huge picture of the mayor with little information (regarding COVID-19).”

Law Director Peter King then asked, “Did the ad say: ‘Vote for Me’?”

Petrick responded, “I didn’t ask for your opinion.”

King then shot back and stated, “I just want you to know that I have your back.”

Councilman Helmin Caba then joined in, “When did State-side get hired?”

Carr explained that it was December 2019 and they started a campaign to get out information about the COVID-19. “The fact is that this company did a lot of work getting information out to the residents. There are a lot of employees in city hall that were working in departments that they normally don’t work in.”

Petrick still was not satisfied, “We are going around in circles. This company was not hired by the council and they should not have done the work.”

Councilman Irizarry then stated, “There was a resolution in place to hire them.”

Law Director King then explained why their hiring did not have to go before the council. He stated that if a contract us below a certain number (\$17,005), they could be hired without the council’s consent. “Any additional monies past that amount, that contractor under the RFQ Qualifications will not receive any excess money.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up next, “These people have to get paid, but I’m confused. None of this makes any sense and we should have been involved in this a long time ago. We don’t know what’s going on and if we still need their services.”

King spoke up and reminded the council, “This (hiring of



**Council President
William Petrick**

this company) was put on the agenda 4 times and taken off the agenda 4 times by the council.”

Councilman Caba wanted clarification on the dollar amount where a contractor can be hired without the council’s approval.

Carr explained, “If the money of the contract is under \$17,005, the council’s approval is not needed. If it goes above that amount, we are not obligated to pay the additional money.”

Pabon spoke up again and stated, “A email was sent to the council after this company had already started working. Everything will fall back into our laps.”

Irizarry then cautioned the council, “The city needs a public information officer. There are 3 of us running for mayor on the council right now, and whoever gets in is are going to need a public information officer. The mayor cannot do all this work herself. Let’s just vote on this up or down.”

Petrick said this will be done at the next meeting (the council meeting after the caucus later tonight).

Councilman Pabon then questioned if this company will be staying on. “We have to make the decision if these people (who are now doing the publications work) or it will be someone else coming in to do this job.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda spoke up stating she had talked

**Continued on Page 7*

A portrait of Fernando Irizarry, a middle-aged man with short dark hair, wearing glasses, a dark suit, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background of the entire graphic is a blurred American flag.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

★ ★ ★

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have left us with immense challenges.
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Let us be thankful for our country,
a land of freedom that is full
of great people and brave heroes.

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FERNANDO IRIZARRY

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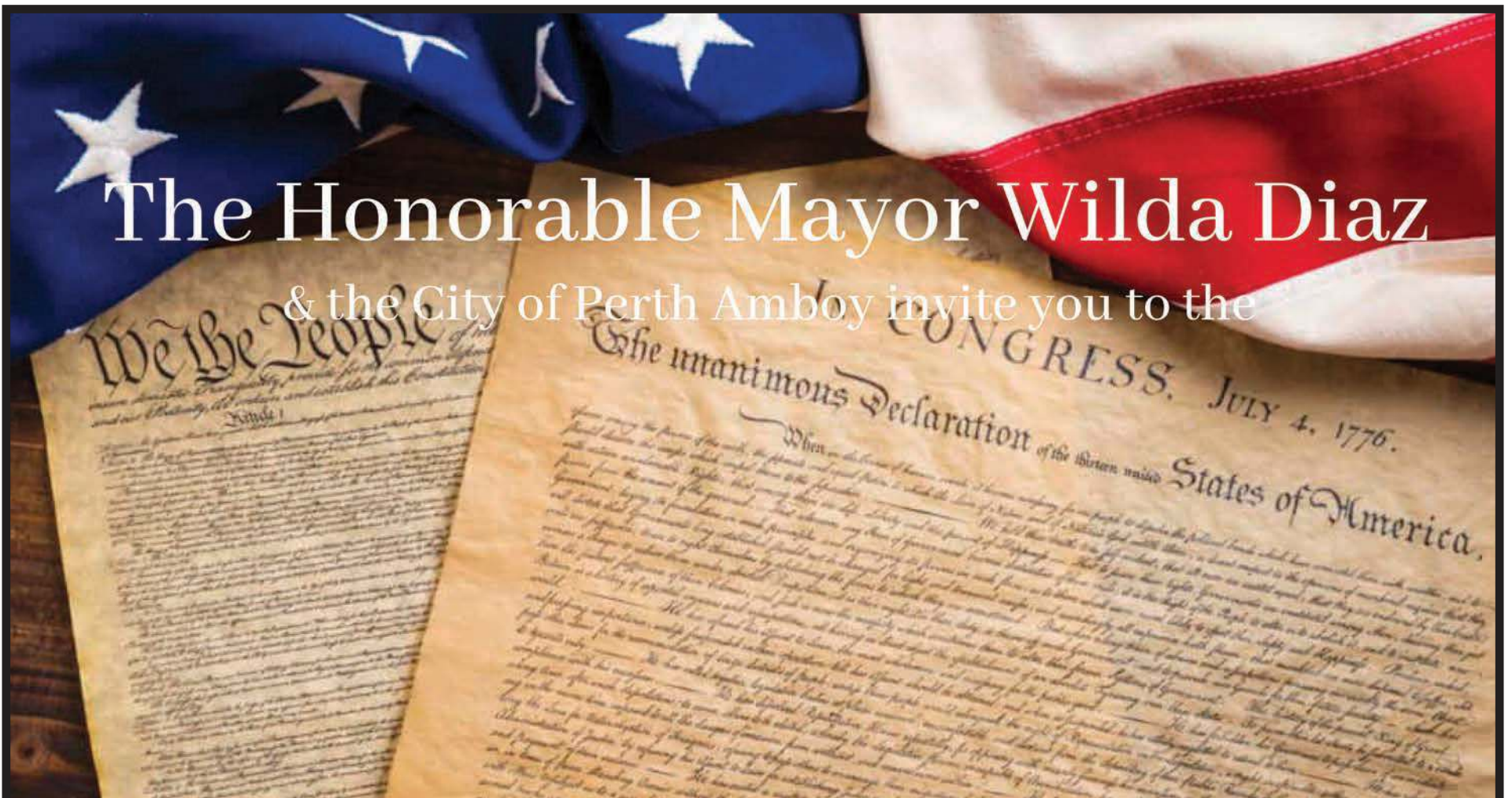
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EDITORIAL

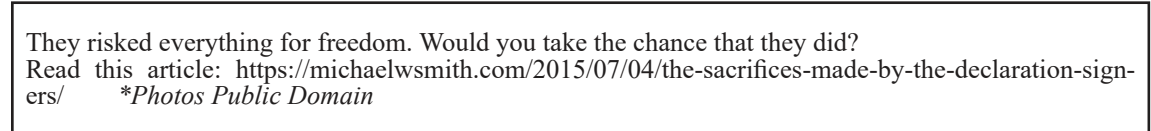
THE COMMUNITY VOICE

freedom? It really depends on you. Freedom is a people choice - not a political choice. We decide our freedom - not those control freak politicians like you are seeing now with their miserable ideas. Those out-of-control protesters are telling us how we should think. In fact, "ALL LIVES MATTER"! Remember, FREEDOM comes with a price tag.

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IN HOPELAWN:	
KRAUSZER’S.....	683 FLORIDA GROVE RD.
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HOFFMAN’S DELI	5 LAURENCE PKWY.
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QUICK STOP DELI	814 AMBOY AVE.
QUISQUEYA MARKET	249 MADISON AVE.
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE	259 MADISON AVE.
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RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL	362 STATE ST.
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WELLS FARGO	214 SMITH ST.
ZPA	281 GRACE ST.
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SENIOR CENTER	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT	111 MAIN ST.
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SEWAREN CORNER DELI	514 WEST AVE.
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BROADWAY BAGELS	105 S. BROADWAY
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KRAUSZER’S	717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO’S HARBOR LIGHTS	132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
IN WOODBRIDGE:	
CITY HALL	1 MAIN ST.
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NEWS & TREATS	99 MAIN ST.
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February 19
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March 18
April 1
April 15
May 6
May 20
June 3
June 17
July 1
July 15
August 5
August 19
September 2
September 16
October 7
October 21
November 4
November 18
December 2
December 16

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. Jul. 6 City Council, Caucus, 4:15 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
WED. Jul. 8 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Jul. 15 City Council, Business & Regular 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

All meetings are subject to change. Check the City Website to see if the meeting will take place via phone conference and for details how to participate

*Check our website www.amboyguardian.com for updates on meeting times and places

Please Submit Community Events 2 Weeks in Advance!
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Teleconferencing Technical Issues, Corporate Distribution Center, Waterfront Parking Topics of Discussion 6_17_20 Council Meeting via Teleconference

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – Resolution No. 07-2020 – An ordinance of the city council of the city of South Amboy establishing standards for electronic meetings in the city of South Amboy.

Councilman Thomas Reilly asked B.A. Glenn Skarzynski, “How do we know the public dialed in?”

B.A. Skarzynski explained when people log on, they pop up on the screen. If they disclose their name, it is recorded. If not, they are assigned as listed and recorded. He stated that there were 23 people participating in the meeting.

Reilly was concerned about technical issues and if the public had difficulty getting to login, that the meeting should be called off.

Council President Mickey Gross stated that if multiple people can’t login, the meeting should be cancelled, but if one person is having difficulties (due to their own issues), it might be different.

Law Director Francis Womack stated that they could make sure the electronic system is order.

Council President Gross stated, “We have to be realistic about this.”

Reilly assured everyone that he wanted it done the way B.A. Skarzynski laid it out and that if one person cannot dial in is one thing, but if seven can’t dial in that’s another.

Law Director Francis Womack stated, “We can include a clause if the information is correct and if the electronics are in working order.

Council Vice President Christine Noble asked, “What if no one is dialing in from the public?”

City Clerk Debra Brooks assured everyone that the council was using the same number as the public is using (if it is working for the council, it’s working for the public).

Womack advised for that situation; it wouldn’t require the meeting to be cancelled.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato asked, “On this particular ordinance, have other municipalities had any recent ordinances?”

Law Director Womack answered, “I have to go back and look, but several other states have done it.”

Ordinance No. 08-2020 – An ordinance of the city of South Amboy, county of Middlesex, New Jersey amending the Broadway/Main Street Redevelopment Plan.

Councilman Thomas Reilly asked about the plan to put a light industrial warehouse on Main Street.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski explained that the plan is to put a 155,000 corporate distribution center on lower Main Street. He stated that this will be a clean industrial building and will be on what remains of developing (undeveloped property) in South Amboy.

Reilly asked if there were any

PILOTS involved. He stated that he was weary of any more PILOTS in South Amboy.

Skarzynski stated he is sure the subject will come up.

Council President Mickey Gross stated that this project is in its early stages. “We are voting on a plan.”

B.A. Skarzynski assured the council that any PILOTS must go before the council.

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Zusette Dato said, “Monday is the first day we allowed local restaurants to open (with outdoor seating). “It’s all good. I encourage everyone to support our restaurants.”

Council Vice President Christine Noble asked, “Is outside dining allowed to be open later than 8 p.m.? Will those hours be increasing?”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered, “Closing time did not come from the state. We tried to pick a balance between peace in the neighborhood and businesses being open. We can revisit that.”

Councilman Thomas Reilly thanked the First Presbyterian Church, Friends of South Amboy, and St. Mary’s Food Pantry. He also thanked the Ancient Order of Hibernians who teamed up with the Friends of South Amboy to distribute meals to the needy.

Reilly also brought up about the same eyesore on First Street that was mentioned before at many council meetings. B.A. Skarzynski stated he would get back to him with an update.

Reilly again mentioned the pallet business. He also brought up a house which is located next to a playground on Roosevelt Avenue. “It’s been 8 years and that structure is still there.”

B.A. Skarzynski answered, “It’s bank owned and as long as it’s not collapsing, little can be done.” He explained that if the structure is uninhabitable it is different than a hazard.

Reilly congratulated the class of 2020. He also offered his condolences to the family of Police Chief Darren Lavigne on the passing of his father.

When asked about the First Aid Squad, Skarzynski told the council the meeting is tomorrow (6/18/20). Reilly asked that the results be shared of the conclusion at that meeting. Skarzynski stated it was up to the mayor if whether or not he wants to share that information with the council.

Reilly asked about the boarding house issue. Skarzynski answered that Jay Elliot (Director of Code Enforcement) is handling this matter with the State.

Reilly asked if there can be a grace period for the water/sewer bills.

Law Director Womack stated that they can draft an ordinance to make it happen.

Reilly then asked about the vaping ordinance. Womack said they certainly can do it.

Councilman Brian McLaughlin expressed his condolences to

the family of Chief Lavigne and First Responders. He stated that a suspect had been apprehended in the homicide at the South Amboy Train Station.

McLaughlin asked about Cambridge.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that Code Enforcement came for a rather lengthy visit and told them what needed to be done.

McLaughlin then asked for an explanation of Vote-by-Mail.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato answered, “I just posted the first of the flyers we received from the county. At the voting places there only will be provisional ballots.”

McLaughlin asked about parking.

B.A. Skarzynski stated we need a study on parking. “We were in the process, then the pandemic happened.”

Law Director Francis Womack emphasized that it needs to be time related study.

Council President Mickey Gross stated, “Hats off to Glenn Skarzynski, Jay Elliot, the police department, and everyone to make outside dining. It was a joint effort by a lot of people. It was a priority getting these restaurants open in less than two weeks.”

Mayor Fred Henry also extended his condolences to Chief Lavigne. He thanked the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Friends of South Amboy. Over 100 meals were served. He then noted, “The American Legion is having a flag retirement ceremony on July 9th at 6 p.m. at the Fisher’s Lodge. The South Amboy Seniors are having friendly graduation posts and pictures of seniors on Broadway. On Monday, the library opened for curbside pickup.” He then added, “Anybody who would like to join the Rotary Club, please contact them.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski thanked everyone for their efforts. He thanked the city clerk and the incredible staff.

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz stated there were city improvements going on and to be careful driving. “Stevens Avenue is being re-milled. O’Leary Boulevard has new curbing and sidewalks. It will be milled and repaired.”

Public Portion:

Resident William DeMasi was the first person to speak. “There are cars racing down the street at all hours from 10 p.m., sometimes from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. Is there anything that can be done about this?”

Mayor Fred Henry answered DeMasi, “Get in touch with the police department. Obviously, we don’t want anyone speeding around.”

The next person to speak was Lisa Joseph. “I want to thank the first responders and healthcare workers. I have a deep appreciation on how difficult it is for them. The Fisherman’s Parking Lot in the Waterfront, we have

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Problems Persist: Contracts, Quality of Life & State of Emergency Measures

6/24/20 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconference

**Continued from Page 1*

to Business Administrator Carr over the telephone and asked if we needed a public information officer regarding the COVID-19 crisis. “My understanding was they were getting someone to do the job not knowing they had someone already in place doing it. The council needs to have input before any hiring is done. We may be in a position that we have no choice but to pay these people.”

After Tejeda spoke, Tashi Vazquez came on the line to say Jack O’Leary, The CEO of the Jewish Renaissance was on the phone and he wanted to give a more detailed explanation of R-221. He first thanked the council for giving him this opportunity to go over what this unit will provide for Perth Amboy residents. “This is an infectious disease unit. So far, 4000 tests have been administered to Perth Amboy Residents and 45 tests were completed today. This unit also has a Map Program and can also handle substance abuse cases. There will also be a zero negative pressure unit which will protect doctors or any medical personnel when treating patients with COVID-19 symptoms or any other infectious diseases. Included will be telemedicine where we can monitor and advise patients at home and see if they may need hospitalization. It’s a way to monitor their health from the beginning to the end of treatment. Perth Amboy is a very walkable city. Most of the residents walk to our facility which increases them getting proper treatment. We also have 2 buses parked outside our facility for testing.”

Public Portion:

Resident Vince Mackiel was the first to speak. His main concern had to do with R-218 and R-219 (Runyan Water System). He wanted to know how much water the city gets from the Runyan well.

Council President Petrick stated, “All of it, but in an emergency situation, we can purchase water from the Middlesex Water Company.”

Mackiel said, “I understand we will be getting better water with rehabilitation and replacement of some of the parts stated in the 2 resolutions, but will our industries also be getting water from the same well? How much good will it be for drinking if the industries will be using the same water as a resident?”

Petrick responded to Mackiel, “If they (the industries) are hooked up to the same system as the residents, will they be getting the same water?”

Mackiel concluded his comments by stating, “Dr. Anthony S. Fauci (NIAID Director) said in the beginning of 2021, a vaccine will be available (to combat COVID-19). We have to be prepared to use large facilities which handle the large amount of people who will be coming into the city for vaccinations. We also have the Jewish Renaissance.” He then asked for

an up to date account of how many cases and deaths in Perth Amboy, statewide, and in the county regarding COVID-19.

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke next and cautioned the council that they need to monitor the bills going for legal services which amounts to between \$20,000 - \$42,000 a month which is quite a lot. She questioned 2 line items in the budget, one for pizza which was under mutual aid and the other under equipment and supplies. She had a concern about an item which was under various capital improvements for Hudson County Auto. “Under Code Enforcement, there was an item called “Nuisance Maintenance”. There was an invoice which had no name attached to it. This is an abuse of due process.”

Petrick responded, “Liens were placed on some of these properties. There is always a Block and Lot number attached. The tax collector would have the full information.”

Carr then responded, “Nuisance Liens are attached to properties, some of which are vacant lots which habitually have the same violations. There is no pizza line in the budget. As far as the item “Hudson County Auto,” it was a truck that was purchased by one of the city departments, and it was authorized by the council.”

Resident Justin Ross spoke next. He was concerned about the quality of life, “Many houses are in disarray and there is trash thrown about. I see there are 6 properties on the agenda which have tax liens for cleanups. This is a chronic issue. I reached out to the police, code enforcement and the parking utility. They all used the excuse that everything is due to COVID-19. Why are parking infractions not being enforced? There are safety issues with speeding on residential streets, loud noise, loud music, and social distancing (not being taken seriously). Of all the city departments that I have called, the best response has come from code enforcement. The police are not able to handle all the calls, and the quality of life is declining. During these conference calls, I can only catch 25% of what Mr. Carr says. I sent a letter resigning from the Library Board of Trustees and I still have not gotten a response (to make sure that the resignation was acknowledged). I even reached out to the mayor.”

Carr responded, “The parking utility is only working part-time and only certain parking situations are being ticketed. The police will handle concerns involving residential parking complaints. With COVID-19, a lot of people are worried about opening their doors to anyone.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up and talked about problems the city is having right now regarding the quality of life. “Fireworks are a major issue all over the country. Fireworks shot in the air are illegal. 4 fires were started last July 4th from illegal fireworks.”

Resident Jeremy Baratta spoke next. He was beside himself regarding the Jewish Renaissance and the money they were getting regarding the negative pressure unit which costs \$125,000. “Why would they be handling substance abuse cases when this is already handled by our regular hospital? This is not needed.” He then questioned the budget for the planning and zoning board members. “Will they be getting any training? There should be no money for PARA. Stateside Affairs (which is handling the public relations for the city) are fundraisers and media consultants for Wilda. There is a conflict of interest.” He then addressed Councilman Irizarry and stated, “There is a conflict of interest since you were on her (the mayor’s) team (in 2016). When the bid for a public relations team was submitted, there were 2 RFP’s (Request for Proposals). At the time, COVID-19 was not mentioned. Wilda has enough people in her office to pick up the slack. The other firm (who had been doing press releases) had more experience and they cost less.”

The caucus meeting concluded in 6:57 p.m. The council then went into closed session.

The regular council meeting started at 8:24 p.m.

The first order of business was a hearing of a citizen, which was Jeremy Baratta of J. Baratta Industries regarding OECD Grants. Jeremy Baratta spoke about the business grants due to the coronavirus. He stated, “On the flyer was a number for Tashi Vazquez who would answer any questions (regarding the grant money). I emailed questions involving the advertising of the grants. That was on June 9th. I emailed again on June 16th and copied the emails to others in the city. I’m still waiting for answers to these emails. I question the exact amount of the grants and how many businesses they expect to help. All grant money is voted on and approved by the council. Is the council going to vote on this before any money is awarded? I just want to start a discussion about the criteria to getting any money and how it would be distributed. Look through the application process. Questions need to be answered by the administration and is there a way for you (the council) to protect this money? I am entitled as a taxpayer to get answers in writing.”

B.A. Carr stated he would get written responses to Baratta’s questions.

Resident Jeremy Baratta questioned Ordinance No. 2 – Protective measures during a local state of emergency. “Is there such a thing as a municipal state of emergency? New Jersey is a pre-exemption state. There is always a civilian in the path of the police. They (civilians) are given an oversight over state laws. The OEM Director has the authority to vote this (ordinance) down.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke next. She also wanted to address this ordinance, “What

about people who travel during certain times? Is this ordinance new?”

Council President Petrick responded, “It’s new.” He then gave an example, “Such as when Superstorm Sandy hit Perth Amboy. People who lived down by the Waterfront had certain restrictions as to when they could go home to retrieve personal items. They were under OEM directives.”

Hubberman then stated, “This ordinance is too general. We need parameters during the state of emergency.”

OEM Director Larry Cattano addressed Hubberman’s concerns and stated a Title 40 Directive which would include the duties of an Emergency Management Coordinator. “This will affect local resident’s health and safety needs. There is a larger scale of outside help if needed. Sometimes a local state of emergency does not rise to the level of state statute. This may only affect what local residents may need. Some people ignore orders. Not every municipality will have the same issues.”

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:

Resident Jeremy Baratta spoke first. He then brought up the issue involving Stateside Company who has been doing PR work for the city regarding the coronavirus. “They are not insured, and they don’t have the required workers compensation insurance. They are not a legitimate business nor legitimate public contractors.”

Sharon Hubberman came up to speak next. She referenced R-227-6/20 – Urging the legislature to oppose the governor’s defunding of the Homestead Benefit and Senior Freeze Programs. “The Homestead Benefit should be defunded, and Governor Murphy should not hold these funds. Approve this resolution.” She then questioned the salary guide, specifically mentioning the Superintendent of Recreation, and the Superintendent of Maintenance. She also questioned the amount of \$7,500 for a postage machine and additional \$7,500 for postage and miscellaneous expense. “How was money spent and how are they placed in the miscellaneous expense column?”

R-188 then wasv opened up for discussion. A public hearing on amendments to CY:2020 Budget.

Jeremy Baratta spoke first. He questioned items dealing with the Planning and Zoning Board. He asked the council if they were aware of a fender-bender that occurred recently. “An ordinance needs to be introduced to account for the need to have fiscal control. There is no accountability and you have to make sure we get what we paid for. There needs to be a parity between the Zoning and Planning Boards. Is any city money going to PARA?”

Council President Petrick responded, “No.”

Sharon Hubberman came up next to speak about the budget. She questioned the increase of \$82,000.

Petrick responded, “It’s in case, we (the council) need to hire paraprofessionals. In the police department, there was a decrease in the FOP and the PBA. There was no adjustment for the Chief of Police.

When it came to voting, Ordinance No. 2 (state of emergency) was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Pabon. Ordinance No. 1 First Reading – no Public Discussion – (establishing a schedule of salaries and salary ranges for management and non-union) was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Caba. For the consent agenda, R-203 (adopting statewide 2020 Budget as amended) was moved by Irizarry. R-204 (Authorizing emergency temporary appropriations to extend the CY: 2020 Temporary Budget in the amount of \$4,931,927.21 was removed. For the consent agenda, R-205 thru R-227 was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Pabon. R-228 was added to the agenda per discussions during the closed session. This was regarding approving payment to Stateside for services rendered. It was unanimously added to the agenda. Then they voted to approve payment for around \$30,000 total to Stateside Affairs. It was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Joel Pabon. When it came time to vote, Helmin Caba abstained. Council President Bill Petrick voted, “No.” Pabon, Tejeda, and Irizarry voted, “yes”. Resolution passes.

Public Portion:

Market Street Resident Hector Gonzalez spoke first. He mentioned the fire that occurred on May 2nd, 2020 on Madison Avenue. He stated the cleanup of this property was not being done properly. “This house is over 130 years old and I believe there is lead paint inside the structure.”

Council President Bill Petrick then added, “There could also be asbestos. People could throw things out of windows into a dumpster. Code Enforcement should be involved and there also should be a demolition permit. The State DEP should be involved. It’s like a Third World operation that should have been shut down from day one.”

Gonzalez continued, “Workers are not wearing masks and I’m having asthma attacks. It is like a Third World Country.”

Code Enforcement Director Irving Lozada came on the line and requested the address of the structure that is being worked on.

Gonzalez stated, “This structure is four feet from my property, and I don’t know if they have a permit (to do any work on this building).”

Lozada then said, “The owners are waiting for insurance.” He asked for Gonzalez’s phone number and stated he would follow up on the situation the next morning.”

Petrick spoke up again and stated, “There is a possibility of lead, dust, and asbestos. There

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Perth Amboy’s Back to Business Program Helps Local Merchants Safely Reopen and Serve Customers

City and BID Guide Small Businesses to Strike Balance between Reopening and Meeting Public Health Rules

Press Release 6/29/20
PERTH AMBOY, N.J. – The City of Perth Amboy and its Business Improvement District (BID) have launched Back to Business, a multi-pronged effort to help local businesses get back on their feet while safely taking care of their customers and workers.

The “Back to Business” program includes a grant assistance program, safe reopening with testing and providing and guidance and planning on how to meet public health rules when reopening.

In discussing the city’s initiative, Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz said, “Our essential and non-essential small businesses suffered greatly during the 12-plus week shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic. We are finding new ways to assist small businesses by offering financial incentives and guidelines for protecting employees and clients while reopening. Our goal is to energize business activity in the downtown area and keep everyone as safe as possible and we are doing this together with the BID.”

Local Partnerships

The Back to Business program brings together local organizations with a long tradition of serving city residents and the small business community. The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center has provided healthcare professionals to conduct the antibody and COVID testing at Raritan Bay Area YMCA for business owners and employees, in addition to their most recent donation of hundreds of face shields for local business owners. Internally, the City’s Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD) and the BID are jointly funding the \$180,000 Small Business Grant program for payroll support.

Outdoor Dining

The City and BID are encour-

aging downtown restaurants and cafes to reopen by offering outdoor dining. With work of Code Enforcement, Municipal Clerk’s Office and the Mayor’s Office, BID has created an on-line application for ease of use and submission for eateries to participate, the city has waived a total of \$350 in application and permit fees normally assessed to set-up sidewalk cafes.

BID Presents New Guidelines for Personal Care Businesses

Also, the BID organized an information meeting for the owners of nail and hair salons, barber shops and personal-care businesses in the downtown district. The State of New Jersey has issued a detailed list of requirements that these types of businesses need to follow when they reopen with the guidance of the Perth Amboy Police Department and the Office of Emergency Management.

BID Chairman Barry Rosengarten stated, “The BID office is communicating with our local businesses so they can safely reopen and start generating revenue to meet their expenses including workers’ salaries.”

BID’s Back to Business Program

Here is a recap of the broad range of “Back of Business” programs that Perth Amboy and the BID has been working on for the past several weeks and launched in support of the safe reopening of local businesses:

- Supporting OECD with \$30,000 of BID funding to launch the \$180,000 Small Business Grant program that provides companies with up to \$3,500 in wage funding for low-to moderate income employees. The application for the COVID-19 Small Business Grant is available online at: <https://tinyurl.com/y9rts3fh>,
- Partnered with the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center to provide antibody and COV-

ID-19 testing for business owners and employees with no out-of-pocket expense,

- Partnered with City to coordinate and facilitate the meeting with owners of personal care businesses to present New Jersey’s guide list of reopening and operating requirements,
- Redirected annual Independence Day fireworks celebration planning and fundraising efforts to create and launch the not-for-profit Celebrate Perth Amboy COVID-19 Help committee that is raising \$100,000 to purchase groceries and household supplies for local families. To learn more about this visit www.perthamboycovidhelp.org
- Created signage for all businesses city-wide alerting shoppers on the general reminders for safety,
- Continually providing assistance to business owners regarding federal grant information and availability, state guidelines for reopening and public health safety and information on local efforts.

About the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District (BID)

The Perth Amboy BID serves local businesses and property owners with support for economic revitalization, business promotion and educational resources. The BID also serves the community and its visitors by scheduling and coordinating a year-long schedule of special events. The programs include business seminars, skill building programs for employees. The BID has also made significant capital improvements, by offering façade grants to small businesses within the district and by helping maintain the City’s streetscapes by information kiosks, planters and directional signs, as well as seasonal decorations.

OBITUARY: Ronald A. Jobin

May 4, 1937 - June 27, 2020

PERTH AMBOY/TOMS RIVER - Ronald A. Jobin, 83, passed away peacefully at his home on June 27, 2020 surrounded by his loving family.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 59 years, Barbara (Wallace). Ron was the most incredible dad to Laura (Keith) Cornish, Suzanne (Albert) Hines, Eileen Szewczyk and Stephen (Lori) Jobin. He was a devoted, adoring grandpa to Timothy Hines, Samantha and Kerianne Szewczyk and Shawn and Ronald James Jobin. Ronald was predeceased by his parents Armand Jobin and Louise Jobin Smith, his brothers, Edmour and Kenneth Jobin, and his sister, Shirley Holden.

Born in New York City, as a teenager, Ron moved to Staten Island where he attended St. Peters High School and graduated from Rutgers University. In 1963 he and Barbara settled in New Jersey, raising their children in the Metuchen/Edison area. As a parishioner of St. Francis, a North Edison Little League coach, and assistant baseball coach at St. Joseph’s High School, Ron took pride in volunteering his time to young people in his community. He was a dedicated role model for those he mentored, and his positive influence continues to inspire the next generation.

Ron retired from Western Electric after 30 years and relocated to Toms River in 1994. As a resident of the Greenbriar Woodlands Community, he enjoyed golfing, bocce, and being a member of the Men’s Club and Finance Committee.

Ron was a founding member of the FIDES Club, a loyal fan of the Lakewood Blue Claws and NY Giants, and an avid genealogy buff. He loved block parties, Halloween celebrations and family vacations, especially the Outer Banks. All who knew Ron enjoyed spending time with him, as his caring nature always made them feel special. Remember Ron with a toast and a smile and think of him with love!

We will celebrate Ron’s life and legacy at Silverton Memorial Funeral Home, 2482 Church Rd., Toms River, NJ on Wednesday July 1 from 4-7 PM, followed by a funeral mass at St. Luke’s Roman Catholic Church on July 2 at 10:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Ron’s memory by donating to your favorite charity or performing a random act of kindness on his behalf.

Johnson, Conaway & Zwicker Bill to Establish NJ Fuel Cell Task Force Signed into Law

Press Release 6./19/20

TRENTON – Aiming to boost adoption of clean energy alternatives and grow the market for fuel cells in New Jersey, legislation (A-741) to establish a 15-member task force within the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) on the use of fuel cell technologies was signed into law by the Governor on Friday.

Fuel cells facilitate the combining of hydrogen and oxygen to make water, and convert the chemical energy into electricity. The cells can be used in all-purpose generators as well as integrated with stationary machinery, specialty vehicles like forklifts, portable floodlights, and motor vehicles giving them broad applications.

Sponsors of the bill now law, Assembly Democrats Gordon Johnson (D-Bergen), Herb Conaway (D-Burlington) and Andrew Zwicker (D-Somerset, Mercer, Middlesex, Hunterdon)

released the following joint statement:

“As the applications of fuel cell technology continue to grow, we are looking at an ever-increasing capacity to shift away from fossil fuels and toward better, cleaner power sources. By creating a central task force comprised of cross-sector experts, this measure takes the first step in accelerating New Jersey’s implementation of fuel cell technologies.

“Engaging State departments, local government, industry and the public on the topic of fuel cells, the task force would be largely beneficial in helping develop policy recommendations and a course of regulatory action. If we plan to make New Jersey’s goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050 a reality, keeping at pace with innovations and integrating clean energy technologies will be critical.”

Reynolds-Jackson, Holley & Wimberly Introduce Bill to Designate Juneteenth as a State & Public Holiday

Press Release 6/24/20

TRENTON – As cities throughout the state move to recognize Juneteenth as a day of remembrance and reflection in their communities, Assembly Democrats Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Jamel Holley, and Benjie Wimberly sponsor legislation to have the historical commemoration designated as a state and public holiday in New Jersey.

The bill (A-4315) would designate the third Friday in June in each year as Juneteenth Day, which commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas to inform enslaved Africans of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation and their freedom. The announce-

ment from General Granger led to celebration and jubilation, which has continued each year in various forms throughout the United States for over 150 years.

The sponsors—Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson (D-Mercer, Middlesex, Hunterdon), and Assemblymen Holley (D-Union) and Wimberly (D-Bergen, Passaic)— issued the following statement on the legislation:

“We’re at another set of crossroads in this country’s history—just as we were in 1863— where we can decide to move humanity forward by once again acknowledging the wrongs committed against African Americans and taking bold

action to correct them.

“A visual illustration of the impact of centuries of systematic and institutionalized racism has our country reeling over the question, “Why?” Why does this continue to persist in our communities today?

“Juneteenth was a defining moment in American History, claiming the beginning of African American independence in this country. It is time for the commemoration of a pivotal moment in history to become an official state holiday, underscoring its importance to our communities and giving time for reflection on how far we have come and have to go to achieve equality and justice for all.”

Attend Public Meetings

Have Your Voice Heard!

Problems Persist: Contracts, Quality of Life & State of Emergency Measures

6/24/20 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconference

**Continued from Page 7*

are state laws on the books, and this is not being followed.”

Gonzalez said, “There could be long term health affects (for the workers and the residents in the surrounding area).”

Resident Jeremy Baratta then came up to speak. Baratta thanked Council President Petrick for voting his conscience (regarding payment to State-side Affairs for public relations work). “The mayor keeps hiring people not qualified, then the council votes to cover up what she does. I’m beside myself. This is another shell company that changes their name and you (the council) keep falling for it. I’m not letting this go.” Baratta then questioned if the council has to go to any classes (pertaining to their duties).

Petrick responded, “There is an ethics class that the council has to go to through the DCA (Department of Community Affairs).”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke next. She asked when will the council meetings be held indoors. “The clarity and transmission are very poor during these teleconference meetings.” She continued, “The gov-

ernor lifted some restrictions and we could be seated inside buildings. “I couldn’t hear what Business Administrator Frederick Carr was saying most of the time. Look for alternative ways to hold meetings.”

Resident Vince Mackiel came up and referenced the COVID-19 crisis. “I have my service vaccination forms and they list all of my shots I’ve received. We have many people in the city that have been exposed, and many have not been tested. Don’t fear inoculations. 40% of people are asymptomatic and they probably have had those symptoms anywhere from 2 to 3 months.”

Council Comments:

Councilman Helmin Caba asked, “When the parking meters be operational?”

Carr explained that July 6th will be when the city starts enforcing the parking meters.

Council President Petrick suggested that the high school can be used for a council meeting.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry had no comments.

Councilman Joel Pabon commented that the Board of Education is waiting for the decision regarding what will be done with the Water’s Stadium

Entrance (regarding the historic façade – to replace or restore it). “The wave parade for the graduation ceremony was very interesting. There were more people in that parade than I’ve seen in a long time. I want to thank all the companies who contributed (to make the parade possible). Be safe. Be careful, but don’t be completely isolated.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda congratulated the Board of Education for doing a good job. “I was touched to see all the graduates who were humble and appreciative (of what was done in their honor).” She then asked, “When will protective fencing go up in Washington Park?”

Business Administrator Carr replied, “After the sewer line connections are completed in that area.”

Council President William Petrick thanked all who called in for their patience and participation in the meeting.

At the last minute, Councilman Fernando Irizarry wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July! Council President Bill Petrick concluded the meeting with the same sentiment. “Happy Fourth of July!” The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

Teleconferencing Technical Issues, Corporate Distribution Center, Waterfront Parking Topics of Discussion

6_17_20 Council Meeting via Teleconference

**Continued from Page 6*

an amazing beachfront as an unpolished gem. The parking lot is at maximum capacity in the morning. I understand it is a free beach to be enjoyed by everyone. The parking lot is being used by everyone here. It has an extremely high traffic use. Is there any way we have South Amboy resident’s parking? We have a lot of overflow in parking. There is extensive parking at the county park. Can we open the school parking lot for parking? Maximizing with one-hour park opening or have something to cater to South Amboy resi-

dents? We need to look at parking for residents.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered Lisa Joseph’s concerns, “I asked Ms. Joseph to join the public portion.”

Council President Mickey Gross said, “I think you have a valid point and it’s something worth looking into.”

Joseph said, “This might be one thing of three months of quarantine. We should not turn away our residents. The development can only take so much parking. We just came off 3 months of quarantine.”

Councilwoman Dato said, “It’s an interesting idea. How would we monitor it? We would

have to man it 24 hours. That’s if the county says you can open the lot to 100% at this point.”

B.A. Skarzynski said, “There are a couple of options, whether it be a decal or badges.”

Gross added, “We should have a discussion to address this to make it right.”

Joseph then concluded, “All it takes is to put up a sign tomorrow. It’s something we can do now.”

Law Director Francis Womack requested that the council go into a closed session to discuss litigation. The council went into closed session at 8:26 p.m. All council members were present.

Lopez, Pinkin & Freiman Bill to Extend Coverage of COVID-19 Testing and Care Delivered via Telehealth and Telemedicine Clears Committee

Press Release 6/23/20
TRENTON – The Assembly Health Committee advanced a measure (A-4215) Tuesday to enable provisions of legislation (A-3843 and A-3860) – concerning coverage of COVID-19 testing and telehealth and telemedicine care – to remain in effect for 90 days after the declared state of emergency and public health emergency end.

Sponsors of the bill, Assembly Democrats Yvonne Lopez (D-Middlesex), Nancy Pinkin (D-Middlesex) and Roy Freiman (D- Hunterdon, Mercer,

Middlesex and Somerset) issued the following joint statement:

“As New Jersey gradually reopens, we are reminded that the novel coronavirus still poses a significant risk to public health. With that in mind, to mitigate future spread, the State’s strategy has been to look toward a ‘new normal’, one that relies heavily on access to testing and remote delivery of healthcare.

“Prior legislation set out to make testing as well as telehealth and telemedicine universally accessible, but only ac-

counted for its need during the period of declared emergency. This legislation takes a critical step to ensure testing and care can remain safe and affordable beyond this point. It functions to provide crucial time to assess the continuing role of policy in these areas.”

The measure would require the Commissioner of Human Services to receive federal approval for State plan amendments or waivers prior to provisions of the bill being implemented.

It now goes to the Speaker for further consideration.

Yvonne Lopez Assemblywoman 19th Legislative District New Jersey General Assembly 2020 Census



Asw. Yvonne Lopez

Once every ten years, New Jersey residents get the opportunity to shape the future of their state and its resources and representation in Washington D.C. This opportunity comes in the form of the decennial census. Mandated by the Constitution, the U.S. Census Bureau has been counting the U.S. population since 1790. While we have come a long way from conducting a census count by

horseback, the census remains just as important for New Jersey.

New Jersey has a lot at stake in the 2020 census and so do all of us as individual residents. The census determines billions in federal dollars to support everything from college tuition aide, social service programs and affordable housing. Universities, hospitals, school systems and other essential services also depend on the census for their resource allocations. If money is not enough of a driving force, the census also determines our representation in Congress. In 1980 New Jersey had 15 congressional districts and every census since then the state has lost more seats resulting in a net loss of 3 congressional representatives. Right now New Jersey has 12 congressional districts and if we lose another district, the state will have one less advocate for New Jersey issues in the House of Representatives. Finally an accurate census count is crucial for accurate data on our state. Everyone from college students working on a research paper to the business development manager of a Fortune 500 Company rely on census data to make decisions and justify policy. Inaccurate information can lead to a host of issues where NJ and its communities are short changed.

Hopefully, you now see the importance of the U.S. census and how its results not only impact the state as a whole but your individual lives as well. So, I am asking you to step up and become a census champion. There are many hard to count communities in New Jersey, including Perth Amboy, and we can all help make sure our most vulnerable communities get the resources they need. As a census champion all you have to do is encourage your friends and family members to complete the census.

The census can be completed by phone and online, with a turn-around time of 5 minutes. Your information is protected by state of the art software and federal law, meaning your information will never be released in any way. If you haven’t done so already, please complete your 2020 census today. New Jersey is counting on all of us to do our part and we cannot let our state down! To complete your census online, please visit 2020census.gov and to complete your census by phone please dial, 1-844-330-2020 (English) and 1-844-468-2020 (Spanish).

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Have A Happy & Safe Fourth of July

Pallone Leads Introduction of Historic \$1.5 Trillion Infrastructure Bill

The legislation includes Pallone’s Living Shore Shorelines Act that protects coastal communities from sea level rise and stronger storms caused by climate change

Press Release 6/22/20
WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced the introduction of an historic \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill that would rebuild America’s infrastructure, stimulate our economy, create millions of good paying jobs and make investments in clean energy initiatives to combat climate change. The Moving Forward Act invests in roads, bridges and clean energy to put the United States on a path toward zero carbon emissions while creating safer communities and roads.

As Chairman of House Energy and Commerce Committee, Pallone authored the clean energy, safe drinking water, broadband and health infrastructure provisions in the bill.

The Moving Forward Act makes critical investments in public lands and the environment with the goal of protecting coastal habitats and marine ecosystems. It includes Pallone’s Living Shorelines Act that protects coastal communities from sea level rise and stronger storms caused by climate change. The bill creates a federal grant program through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to assist states, localities and non-governmental organi-

zations (NGOs) in constructing living shorelines. The Living Shorelines Act will help protect coastal communities from the effects of climate change, including more flooding from sea level rise and stronger hurricanes, by harnessing proven natural infrastructure solutions. Last year, Pallone held an event in Keyport where living shorelines already are strengthening the coastline in New Jersey.

“There is no better way to jumpstart our economy and advance our country’s momentum toward a green future than to modernize our badly aging infrastructure. The coronavirus pandemic has wiped out more than 600,000 clean energy jobs, stifling both our economy and our fight against climate change. This bill will help us rebuild our economy with a \$70 billion investment in clean energy,” Pallone said. “This bill also invests \$30 billion to upgrade our nation’s health infrastructure, allowing us to effectively respond to the coronavirus pandemic, prepare for future public health crises and improve the overall quality of care across the country.

“The Moving Forward Act makes critical investments that will help my home state of New Jersey, including a much-needed investment in modes of

transportation my constituents use every day, including roads, bridges, and Amtrak. I’m also proud that my Living Shorelines Act was included in this bill. Since Superstorm Sandy, we have invested hundreds of millions of dollars to make New Jersey more resilient against the effects of climate change. This legislation will provide additional help so communities can use living shorelines to effectively mitigate future flooding while benefiting local economies. Strengthening living shorelines will also improve the local environment by supporting water quality and habitats for local wildlife and fish as well as provide enhanced opportunities for recreation,” Pallone concluded.

The Moving Forward Act:

- Delivers better roads and bridges faster with more than \$300 billion of investment that prioritizes fixing what we already have, including tens of thousands of structurally deficient bridges.
- Invests more than \$100 billion in transit to put more zero-emission buses on the road, add new routes, and provide more reliable service, resulting in better transit options and fewer single-occupant cars clogging highways.
- Invests in programs, projects,

and materials that emphasize resiliency while reducing carbon pollution from the transportation sector, including \$1.4 billion in alternative fuel charging infrastructure.

- Triples funding for Amtrak to \$29 billion, allowing for upgrades and expansion of the passenger rail network, and improves rail crossing safety and addresses increasingly long trains that block crossings for longer than ten minutes, which impacts local traffic and emergency response times.
- Modernizes our energy infrastructure for a clean energy future by investing more than \$70 billion to transform our electric grid to accommodate more renewable energy, expand renewable energy, strengthen existing infrastructure, help develop an electric vehicle charging network, and support energy efficiency, weatherization, and Smart Communities infrastructure.
- Puts Americans to work strengthening our coasts through a \$3 billion grant program for shovel-ready projects to restore Great Lakes and coastal habitats and marine ecosystems, with priority given to qualifying communities of color.
- Modernizes the nation’s health care infrastructure by invest-

ing \$30 billion to upgrade hospitals to increase capacity and strengthen care, help community health centers respond to COVID-19 and future public health emergencies, improve clinical laboratory infrastructure, and increase capacity for community-based care.

- Protects access to safe drinking water by investing over \$25 billion in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and other programs to ensure all communities have clean drinking water and to help remove dangerous contaminants like PFAS from local water systems.
- Revitalizes our communities and creates jobs by investing \$2.7 billion for Brownfields redevelopment and returning valuable land to productive use.
- Delivers affordable high-speed broadband Internet access to all parts of the country by investing \$100 billion to promote competition for broadband internet infrastructure to unserved and underserved rural, suburban, and urban communities, prioritizing communities in persistent poverty and ensuring that broadband-related support is being administered in an efficient, technology-neutral, and financially sustainable manner.

Assemblyman Joe Daniels Returns to Franklin Food Bank to Donate Free Pizzas and Facemasks to Families in Need

Press Release 6/22/20
SOMERSET - Last month, Assemblyman Joe Daniels (D-Middlesex, Somerset) stood behind the flame and made 60 pizzas at the Franklin Food Bank to donate them and facemasks to residents in line for groceries. This past Thursday, he returned.

This time, his team had the help of Franklin Township Councilmen Sivaraman "Ram" Anbarasan and Will Galtieri and Councilwoman Crystal Pruitt.

Together, they made and gave out 70 pizzas to families in need and donated 10 PPE facemasks to each family.

"These are the people who need it the most and are struggling during these times," Daniels said, adding "When you see the look of joy on everyone's face, it is well worth the effort. We must all help each other out during these difficult times and pull together. That is what community is about."

Singer, Verrelli Commend DOH Overdose Study Grants for Municipalities

Press Release 6/24/20
TRENTON - On the recent announcement by the Department of Health to create overdose study grant opportunities for local health departments, Senator Robert Singer (R-Monmouth, Ocean) and Assemblyman Anthony Verrelli (D-Mercer, Middlesex, Hunterdon) issued the following statement:

“We commend the New Jersey Department of Health for creating a grant program to expand and integrate overdose fatality review teams (OFRTs) across the state.

“This program will do exactly what we wanted to accomplish with our bill, A-798 (Verrelli) / S-52 (Singer), which aimed to establish OFRTs in each county through legislative action.

“We applaud the administration of Governor Phil Murphy for not waiting for this measure to progress through both chambers of the legislature to implement OFRTs as soon as possible.

“It is only with rigorous data analysis, research, and evaluation that we can further our work of preventing fatal drug overdoses among our families, friends, and neighbors.”



Unsung Heroes: Catholic Charities’ PACT Teams

Press Release 6/29/20
PERTH AMBOY - In the media - newspapers, television, and on-line, we hear about heroes in hospitals, EMS, police, supermarkets, food pantries, Amazon and so many others that step up in times of crisis. We are so grateful for their service and compassion. Dr. Esther Schlesinger wants you to know about another group of heroes. Dr. Schlesinger works for the Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) team in Middlesex County at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, serving those with serious and persistent mental illness.

PACT teams exist throughout the state and in fact the country. Catholic Charities operates three PACT teams within Middlesex County – in Perth Amboy, East Brunswick, and New Brunswick. These teams are comprised of a variety of staff members, including nurses, social workers, licensed counselors and substance abuse counselors, peer advocates, vocational specialists, housing specialists, team leaders, and psychiatrists.

These staff members work on the front lines, delivering food and medication, providing activities, and transporting clients to urgent doctor appointments. The PACT teams provide sup-



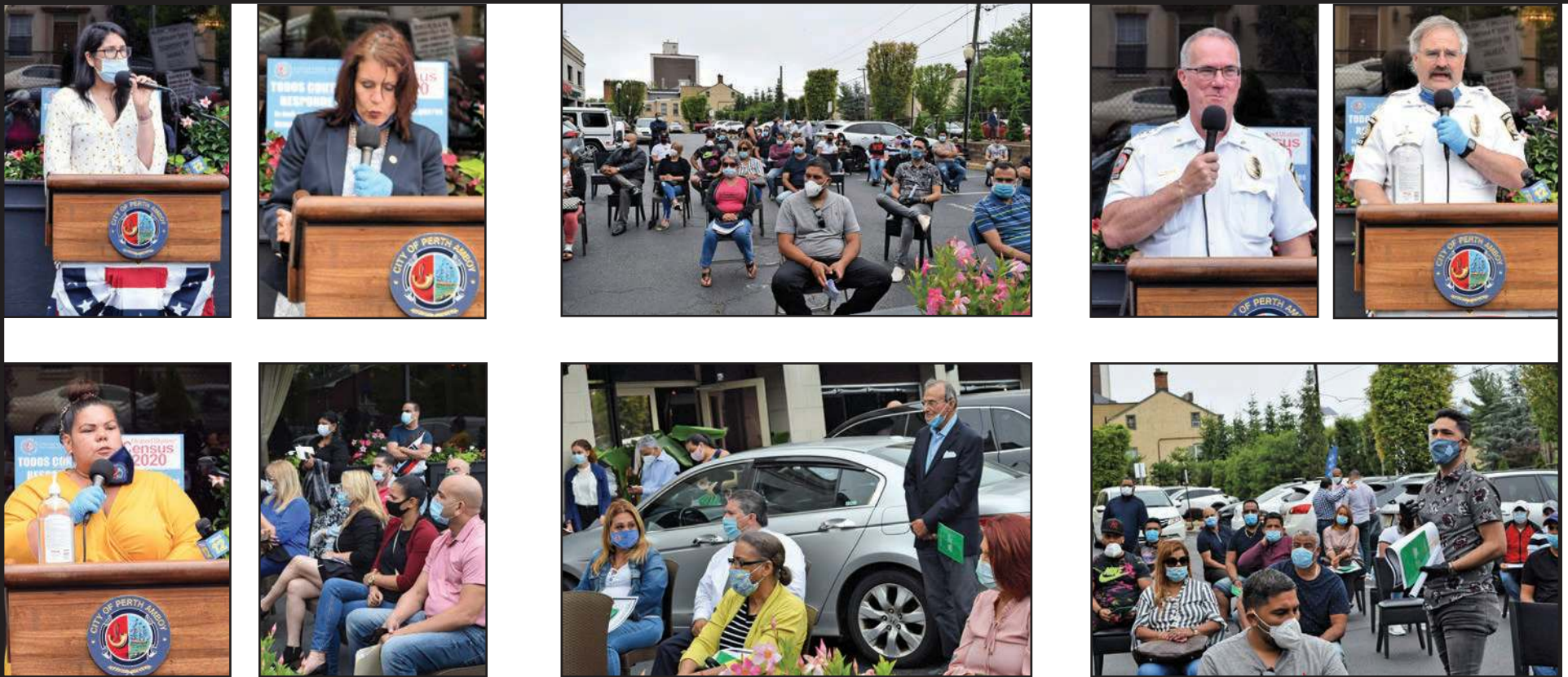
port 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They support families and communicate with hospital staff as needed.

The Catholic Charities' Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) is guided by the principal that individuals with mental illness, even those with the most impaired functioning, can reside in normal settings in the community if adequate supports and services are provided.

Last year Catholic Charities’ PACT teams provided more than 15,000 hours of support to PACT consumers. We join Dr. Schlesinger in bringing to light the wonderful work of the PACT team heroes to make sure their contributions are not overlooked.

Hair and Nail Salon Reopening Meeting at Ciro's, Perth Amboy, 6/18/20

*Photos by Katherine Massopust



St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry 6/6/20

*Photos submitted by Jerry Yaros



Submitted by Jerry Yaros
PERTH AMBOY - Last Saturday was one of the busiest at the Perth Amboy St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry. Megan Goodwin continued her project of giving out presents to the children who had birthdays this month. We received from McFoods County Warehouse, 100 cases of fruits and vegetables and 50 cases of milk that the volunteers distributed to 351 families along with the regular bags of groceries. We gave out a record of over 8000 lbs. of food. Carlos Capellan from State Farm Insurance, Caldwell, donated 200 bags of cereal and helped with the distribution. LeeAnn Leathem and KG Brown, have been doing the registrations every Saturday since the onset of the covid virus. As you can see from the pictures, our volunteers did an outstanding job of providing supplemental food to our needy families.

How the Perth Amboy Salvation Army Corps Has Been Helping That Community and Beyond...

Submitted by Terese Kelly Greer
PERTH AMBOY - The Salvation Army, one of the Nation's largest disaster relief organizations, is serving as the #1 charity in feeding the tens of thousands of New Jerseyans in need during COVID-19. Many of the Salvation Army locations are helping double, if not triple the amount of people they usually serve – Perth Amboy being one of them, specifically since there are 2,000 coronavirus cases in the town. Last year in April, the Perth Amboy location provided more than 11,000 meals. This past April, they provided more than 41,000. Normally, Perth Amboy serves 100-150 families – by next week, they will serve 450 families out of their food pantry. One of the first days, within 18 minutes, they helped 100 plus people.
Bottom line, they have seen people who wouldn't normally come to the Salvation Army nor ask for help. There are people coming with "beat up cars" as well as SUVs and BMWs. More children coming with parents or people coming for their elderly parents – a woman, age 29, with three kids came for help – her husband passed from the

virus. In addition, they are seeing people beyond Perth Amboy -- people travel from Sayreville, Woodbridge and Carteret.
Sidebar story: the Perth Amboy Salvation Army officer Mhairi Smeaton has been getting volunteer help from the Latin American Motorcycle Association (LAMA). The other day they were scheduled to receive 7 palates of food for their pantry and 15 palates were delivered. The Association of bikers didn't let her lift a finger – they helped to bring the palates into the pantry. She also said that the Perth Amboy community has been working together – the Township, other food pantries, Soup Kitchen 411, etc. She has received several anonymous donations of bleach and personal care items.
In addition to monetary donations, they are also in need of snacks for kids, crayons and other activities, personal care items, diapers, baby food and pet food/supplies.
The Salvation Army officer also mentioned that they are getting requests for help with funeral services – which they of course don't have the funds to provide.

Barge Outdoor Dining, Perth Amboy

*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell



PERTH AMBOY - Enjoying outside dining at the Barge.



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ShopRite Donation Helps Perth Amboy Families Facing Severe Food Shortages

Press Release 6/23/20

PERTH AMBOY – Charitable companies and individuals have helped restore a sense of hope for thousands of Perth Amboy families facing severe food shortages. Many households are running out of food and basic necessities because wage earners are unemployed or working fewer hours due to COVID-19.

ShopRite of Perth Amboy, located at 365 Convery Blvd., has donated \$4,000 worth of gift cards for the purchase of groceries and basic household items. The City of Perth Amboy’s Mayor Wilda Diaz, working with Kenneth Ortiz, director of the city’s Department of Human Services, and his staff, have carefully identified those families most in need of the recently distributed gift cards.

Mayor Diaz said, “We are deeply grateful for the generous support from our local ShopRite supermarket. Each time we need groceries and household basics to help feed our families in distress, businesses have stepped forward and made incredible donations. Our city is blessed to have such exceptional and giving companies as our neighbors.”

ShopRite of Perth Amboy was contacted by Tashilee Vasquez, Assistant Director of the city’s Office of Economic and Community Development. Teaming with Mr. Ortiz, who created one of the community’s food collection and distribution centers, Ms. Vasquez asked the supermarket to support the efforts of supplying food to the many families disadvantaged by the coronavirus. The supermarket responded by donating 80 gift cards valued at \$50 each.

“We are proud to support Mayor Wilda Diaz and organizations such as Perth Amboy COVID Help that are working to improve the lives of local residents,” said Terry Glass, co-CEO of Glass Gardens, Inc., a

family-owned business. “The ShopRite of Perth Amboy and all our ShopRite stores have a history of supporting the communities where we operate and take seriously our role in helping supply local families with the essential items, especially during times of uncertainty.”

Meanwhile, the not-for-profit Perth Amboy COVID Help organization continues to solicit contributions from companies, local business and individuals on behalf of impacted families and individuals. The nonprofit group – formed after Mayor Diaz and Barry Rosengarten, chairman of the Celebrate Ours Stars & Stripes Committee, canceled the city’s annual fireworks display marking America’s Independence Day. The organization is encouraging fireworks sponsors to redirect their donations to the campaign to secure food and supplies for local families in need.

Companies and families may donate online by visiting the Perth Amboy COVID Help website and clicking on the donate button. People may also send their contributions to Perth Amboy COVID Help, P.O. Box 999, Perth Amboy, N.J. 08862. Donors are asked to make their checks payable to CPA COVID-19 HELP.

Mr. Rosengarten said, “Our community needs your help -- right now. We have too many families without funds to buy food for the people in their household. We deeply appreciate ShopRite’s commitment to serve our community and its residents. We ask more companies to support our fundraising efforts by making a contribution today.”

Local companies that have made generous donations of food and supplies include Supremo Food Market, Tropical Cheese, Quisqueya Food Market, Goya Foods, Cream-O-Land Dairies and ShopRite.

Pallone Statement on House Passage of Justice in Policing Act

Press Release 6/25/20

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) issued the following statement on House passage of the Justice in Policing Act of 2020:

“For too long, Black Americans have faced systemic racism and unjust force by the police. That is why I cast my vote today in support of the Justice in Policing Act. It’s past time to

end police brutality, stop profiling, and hold police accountable. The bill bans chokeholds and no-knock warrants. It ensures that state and local law enforcement use body cameras. It also establishes a National Police Misconduct Registry to prevent problematic officers from being rehired. We can never replace the lives we have lost, but we can work together to ensure a more just society for every American.”



Perth Amboy City Council Votes to Oppose the Governor’s Cuts to Property Tax Relief Programs

Press Release 6/26/20

PERTH AMBOY – The Perth Amboy City Council has voted unanimously to oppose Governor Phil Murphy’s freezing of funds for two popular programs that have extended needed tax relief to senior and low-to-moderate income property owners. Funding for both the Homestead Rebate program and the Senior Freeze program has been held up by the governor in the wake of the fiscal crisis brought on by the COVID-19 health emergency.

The city council voted to support a resolution at its June 24 meeting, which demands that the governor “fully restore funding” for the Homestead Rebate program and Senior Freeze

program in order to assist those residents who are most in need of property tax relief.

“I am always sensitive to the needs of our senior citizens in Perth Amboy,” said William Petrick, President of the Perth Amboy City Council, and the initiator of the resolution. “We are an economically strapped community. I am always thinking about how these decisions will impact our seniors.”

Perth Amboy has a large low-income population, and many moderate-income property owners who are especially stressed by job losses and the depressed economy. Property tax relief programs are often crucial in assisting homeowners in communities such as Perth

Amboy in meeting their property tax obligations. The loss of these programs could threaten home ownership for many families, in a city where the percentage of owner-occupied homes is already extremely low.

The Homestead Rebate program allows property owners who meet certain income requirements to decrease their property tax burden by an average of several hundred dollars per year. The state reimburses municipalities that credit residents’ property tax bills. The Senior Freeze program reimburses seniors and disabled residents who meet certain requirements for increases in their property tax bills.

Perth Amboy’s Small Businesses Invited to Apply for a Local Grant to Help Reopen after COVID-19 \$180,000 Grant Program for Local Companies Focused on Getting “Back to Business”

Press Release 6/24/20

PERTH AMBOY - The City of Perth Amboy and the Business Improvement District are launching the Small Business Grant program to provide funding to local companies negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Small businesses are encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$3,500 online at [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/Y9RTS3FH](https://tinyurl.com/y9rts3fh). The grant was developed to help local businesses get “Back to Business.”

The city will begin accepting grant applications at 9 a.m. on Friday, June 19, 2020. The funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The goal is to process the grant requests as rapidly as possible.

The City’s Office of Economic and Community Development and the Business Improvement District (BID) are providing \$180,000 to fund the COVID-19 Small Business Grant program. The grant is one element of BID’s effort to stimulate local economic activity by getting companies “Back to Business.” The grants are federally funded by the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus, and \$30,000 of contributed locally by the BID, sourced from BID-sponsored special events during 2020 that were canceled due to the coronavirus and other unexpected funds.

Applicants are advised that documents listed below are needed to complete their grant request:

- Completed and signed Small Business Grant application
- Business owner’s statement about hardship caused by COVID-19 shutdown
- Business Formation Documents
- Tax returns filed for 2018 and 2019
- W9 Form and New Jersey Business Registration Certificate
- Employee Self-Certification Form.

In announcing the Perth Am-

boy’s Small Business Grant, Mayor Wilda Diaz said, “Our small businesses are the backbone of the city’s economy and many have struggled during the coronavirus. We’ve launched our own grassroots grant program to help local companies ‘Get Back to Business’ by supporting their rehiring of employees and serving their customers. I’m grateful to the inspired City Hall team and the BID for partnering to create one of the only locally-funded business grant programs of its kind in the Garden State.”

Here is a checklist for business owners to review to make certain they qualify for the grant program:

- Business needs a physical location within the city
- Demonstrate an economic hardship due to COVID-19 crisis
- Business’ employees meet the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) guidelines (information available online)
- Business must have 1-10 full-time employees (or equivalent)
- Business is registered to do business in New Jersey
- Business is a for-profit business.

Tashilee Vasquez, assistant director of the city’s Office of Economic and Community Development, said: “Our priority is to alleviate the financial hardships that COVID-19 shutdowns and continued social distancing policies caused on our small business community. Many businesses have depleted their cash reserves and need



Tashilee Vazquez

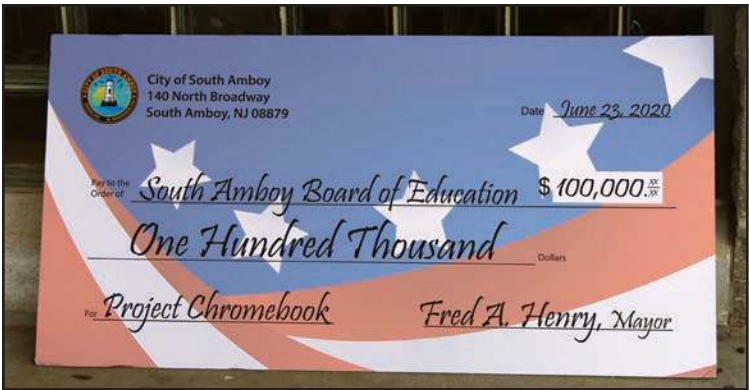
grant funding to pay expenses and meet their payroll. Grant funds will be used to retain or rehire low to moderate income individuals, a CDBG national objective.”

The BID’s Director, Noelia Colon added, “Our community, its residents and businesses were hit hard by the pandemic and damage continues. The BID serves our small businesses in many positive ways and the Small Business Grant program is an innovative effort to serve and help speed their recovery. Helping fund and administer the grant program validates the value of the BID in responding to and supporting our local businesses during times of difficulty and need.”

If questions about the City of Perth Amboy’s Business Grant Program, please contact Ms. Vasquez by calling 732-826-0290, ext. 4863, or by emailing tvazquez@perthamboy.org. Application opens on Friday, June 17th at 9:00 a.m., visit: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/Y9RTS3FH](https://tinyurl.com/y9rts3fh)



City of South Amboy, NJ Partnership and Collaboration Pays Dividends



Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY - As redevelopment continues in the City of South Amboy, the City Government and South Amboy Redevelopment Agency have taken a major step to bring improvements to benefit all residents that would not have been possible without their collective efforts. Tuesday, June 23rd Mayor Fred Henry and Executive Director of Redevelopment Eric Chubenko presented a check in the amount of \$100,000 to Superintendent of Schools Jorge Diaz and Board of Education President Anthony Conrad to begin the process of equipping every South Amboy Public School student with a Chromebook computer. The check represents a third of the cost involved with a goal to fund the remaining two thirds of the project through impact fees collected by the Redevelopment Agency. "This is an excellent example of how partnership and collaboration between the City, its Redevelopment Agency, and our Board of Education can enhance the academic opportunities to our children at no cost to the taxpayer!" said Mayor Fred Henry. Eric Chubenko agreed with that idea. "Gradual smart development and careful negotiations have provided opportunities for the City which under normal circumstances would not have been possible. A good example of past success is our outstanding Community Center/YMCA that was the result of one of our earliest redevelopment projects". School Superintendent Jorge

Diaz echoed those sentiments. "The level of cooperation between the Mayor's Administration, the Redevelopment Agency, and the Board of Education shows how partnerships like this can provide great opportunities where working together we can provide both a superior academic and social environment for all of our children." Working with various developers the City has been reclaiming former industrial sites located in prime waterfront locations to provide superior housing opportunities along the Raritan Bay. As both Board of Education President and as a Redevelopment Commissioner, Anthony Conrad has been involved on both sides of this partnership. "Strong teams make achievement possible. The synergy that occurs between the Board of Education, the Redevelopment Commissioners, and the Mayor & Council is regular, consistent, and has great value to our community". The City of South Amboy has been at the nexus of commercial and residential redevelopment in New Jersey. The Manhattan Beach development is currently under construction in anticipation of the imminent construction of a Passenger Ferry Terminal that will offer service to NYC. As one of the four original State designated Transit Villages South Amboy continues to work with various stakeholders to develop integrated Mass Transit options for City and County residents who commute to New York City.

Gifting Bites A Participant of School Based Youth Services Program Presented the Winning Plan!

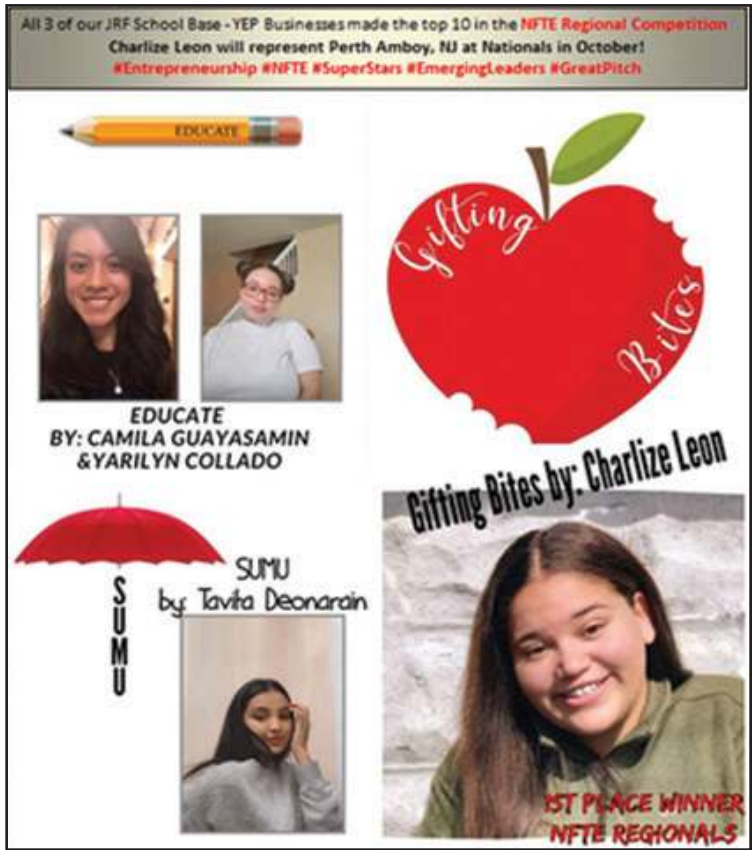
Press Release 6/26/20
PERTH AMBOY - In its first year of participation, a Youth Entrepreneurship Program ("YEP") participant of the School Based Youth Services Program ("The Base"), a program of The Jewish Renaissance Foundation ("JRF"), earned first place in the regional competition of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship ("NFTE"). Competing against 25 other programs throughout New York, and as the only New Jersey Program represented, Charlize Leon, a rising junior at Perth Amboy High School presented the winning plan for Gifting Bites, a mobile app which allows businesses to "gift" food items that would otherwise be disposed of to Non-Profit Organizations or consumers in need. In total, the YEP program had three submissions from four students in the regional competition. All three submissions scored in the top 10.

For the 2019-2020 school year, The Base partnered with NFTE and Perth Amboy High School to develop YEP for Perth Amboy High School Students. YEP is a program which helps high schools' students develop an entrepreneurial mindset as they build and test their own business ideas. Lead by School Based Staff members, the eight-month program provided 15 high school youth with the opportunity to meet weekly and explore how to solve problems as entrepreneurs, learn how to provide business solutions to programs, and focus on developing the knowledge the students would need to succeed in business. The YEP participants also had an opportunity to participate in a Youth Entrepreneurial Conference held at Microsoft Headquarters in New York City back in 12/12/2019.

The 2020-2021 school year will be the 20th anniversary for School Based Youth Services Program at Perth Amboy High School. A program of the Jewish Renaissance Foundation and funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, The Base is in its 19th year. The Base has provided support to thousands of Perth Amboy High School students by providing a variety of services, which include, mental health support, career development/exploration, college preparation, and community service.

The NFTE program is an international non-profit organization providing entrepreneurship training and education programs to young people from low-income urban communities. Based in New York City, NFTE focuses on developing the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in postsecondary education, advanced career training and/or immediate entry into jobs with a meaningful career path.

Precious Ojeda (Program Assistant for School Based Youth



Services) "My experience with NFTE solidified my purpose. My initial thought was that teaching certainly wasn't my calling. However, I soon realized that teacher was a simple title but it encompassed so much more. It was a vehicle that allowed me to utilize my creativity to connect with my student's innovative thoughts. The fusion of our collective talents and hands on opportunities birthed amazing ideas and projects. The culmination of their excellence resulted in business plans that literally took my breath away. I never imagined that our first year would yield presentations of such caliber. Therefore, submitting multiple presentations and seeing all three make the top 10 was beyond comprehension. I have shared this journey and witnessed their collective and individual growth and development. Watching what they have learned in the classroom translated into a screen, was such a proud moment. However, nothing will compare to the pride and admiration I felt when I heard Charlize's name called as the 1st place winner. My NFTE stu-

dents were the catalyst I needed to catapult me to what may lie next in my professional career, thank you for an indelible experience!"

The Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF) is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization founded by individuals who feel compelled to act upon the teachings of the Jewish faith. With two federal designations: as a Community Action Agency and as a Federal Qualified Health Center, we believe as citizens in a democratic society, we must respond to the needs of our neighbors and share our talents and resources. The JRF is committed to helping individuals/families become healthier and stronger. We believe in changing lives by creating hope and self-sufficiency, and we succeed by providing individuals, children and families with essential health and human services, community development and youth programs. Our life-improving services extend across all cultures and faiths, regardless of economic status. We are so proud of not only, Charlize Leon, but all of the participants of NFTE.

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By: Anton Massopust III
“I think that what me and Mark did shocked the world,”
Sammy Sosa

The newest documentary from ESPN - 30 for 30: Long Gone Summer has a great title. The documentary features Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa’s famous home run chase to beat Roger Maris’s record of 61 home runs in 1961. In the Summers of 1998 baseball was an all-time low after the baseball strike from Aug. 12, 1994 to Apr. 2, 1995. There was no world series in 1194 and people were saying they were sick of baseball and they'll never watch another baseball game ever again. But that summer of 1998 both the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs produced two huge home run Kings: First Baseman Mark McGwire and Right Fielder Sammy Sosa.

This documentary talks about the rise Mark McGwire, the California kid who lived, breathed, and ate baseball. He wanted to be a pitcher but was moved to first base when he got to the majors because he was a good hitter and knew how to hit the homerun.

Sammy Sosa played for the Chicago Cubs. He was from the Dominican Republic and looked at baseball as a means to

get out of poverty. Sosa eventually made it to the big leagues, and he was a homerun phenomenon.

The chase was to beat Roger Maris, the legendary Yankee slugger who beat Babe Ruth’s record with 61 homeruns in 1961.

You see how both McGuire and Sosa surpassed that record, but Mark McGwire came out out on top. He beat the record first, then Sammy Sosa surpassed him.

Although they were very generous and kind men who came together with love of the game and good sportsmanship, it was later found out they were both taking steroids.

At first, it seems that during the chase, Major League Baseball first let this slide, but it became apparent that both men, like many of the top players had to admit they were using steroids. Mark McGwire eventually admitted to it, while Sammy Sosa denied the allegations.

This documentary is worth watching, especially if you were a baseball fan. Check out the library of 30 for 30. There is a little something on there for everybody. LongGone Summer is interesting and both a sad and joyful tale.



Pallone Applauds Extension of Federal Support for Coronavirus Testing at New Jersey Pharmacies

Press Release 6/24/20
WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today applauded the extension of federal support for coronavirus testing at New Jersey pharmacies through August. Pallone and his delegation colleagues sent a letter in May requesting the Trump Administration extend existing agreements with pharmacies in New Jersey for at least an additional three months.

“As one of the hardest hit states, federal support is critical to expanding and sustaining New Jersey’s coronavirus testing capacity. The extension of federal support at pharmacies across the state will allow New

Jersey to maintain testing and keep New Jerseyans healthy,” Congressman Pallone said. “We know that coronavirus testing reduces the transmission of this virus and saves lives, and I will continue to make sure New Jersey has the resources and support it needs to meet its testing goals.”

In May, the New Jersey Attorney General announced that the state’s Division of Consumer Affairs authorized licensed New Jersey pharmacists to widely administer COVID-19 tests to customers. Coronavirus testing at pharmacies has been critical for New Jersey to improve daily testing capacity to reduce the transmission of the virus.

World War II - 75 Years Ago

By Phil Kohn. Dedicated to the memory of his father, GM3 Walter Kohn, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, USNR, and all men and women who have answered the country's call in time of need. Phil can be contacted at ww2remembered@yahoo.com.

Ruthenia, formerly in Czechoslovakia, becomes part of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on June 29. In Washington, D.C., President Truman approves “Operation Downfall” — the two-part plan devised by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for invading the home islands of Japan. Involved will be five million troops, mostly American. British Commonwealth forces will provide very-long-range bomber support. The southernmost Japanese island of Kyushu will be invaded first, on November 1, 1945 (“Operation Olympic”), with the island of Honshu — the main island, where Tokyo is located — to be invaded on March 1, 1946 (“Operation Coronet”).

President Truman appoints James F. Byrnes to succeed Edward Stettinius as U.S. Secretary of State. Byrnes, from South Carolina, has been a U.S. Representative and a U.S. Senator, as well as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Stettinius had resigned to become the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Chinese forces capture Liuchow, in southern China. They then take towns on the southern border and move into Japanese-occupied French Indochina. At a press conference announcing a major investigation of the film industry by the House Un-American Activities Committee, U.S. Rep. John Rankin, a Democrat from Mississippi, states that Hollywood “is the greatest hotbed of subversive activities in the United States.” In New York City, a 17-day newspaper-delivery strike begins. Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia famously reads the comics over the radio to the city’s children to keep them up on the happenings of their favorite cartoon characters.

Australian and Dutch troops land near Balikpapan, Borneo, on July 1, 1945. The U.S. 2nd Armored Division enters Berlin in accordance with the four-power agreement over the division of Germany — and, separately, Berlin — into zones of control. British troops withdraw from Magdeburg, Germany, which is located in the Soviet Occupation Zone.

The British on July 2 capture secret documents indicating plans for a breakout of Japan’s Thirty-Third Army in Burma. Japanese sources report that only 200,000 people remain in Tokyo, with the others evacuated to safer places. The Japanese claim that over five million people have been killed or wounded by American fire-bombs.

On Borneo, Australian and Dutch troops have driven 6 miles inland from their Balikpapan beach-head by July 3. Moscow Radio reports that the body of former Nazi Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels has been discovered in the courtyard of the Chancellery in Berlin. In Detroit, Michigan, the first civilian passenger car made in the U.S. in three years rolls off the assembly line of the Ford Motor Company.

The British 7th Armoured Division — “The Desert Rats” of the North African Campaign — enters Germany on July 4 to establish and patrol the British Sector of Occupation. Patrolling 95 miles off the coast of Brazil, the Brazilian scout cruiser *Bahia* sinks within three minutes when its own gunners during target practice accidentally shoot mines stored on the stern of the ship. Few of the 375 crew members survive the blast and sinking, and many of those who do die of thirst, injuries and exposure in shark-infested waters. The 37 ultimate survivors are rescued only four to five days later, when the Brazilian cruiser *Rio Grande do Sul*, scheduled to relieve *Bahia* on patrol, arrives on the scene to find the ship missing and men in the water.

In Manila, U.S. Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur announces on July 5 that the Philippines has been liberated. However, sporadic fighting continues in the islands until after the Japanese surrender. U.S. losses total 11,921 dead and 42,970 injured or captured. Across Germany, the rumor begins to spread that Adolf Hitler is still alive. In the United Kingdom, general elections are held, the first since 1935. Results will not be posted until July 26, so votes of British service personnel overseas can be included. In the American Occupation Zone of Germany, the U.S. military government seizes all assets within the zone of IG Farbenindustrie AG. The chemicals and pharmaceuticals conglomerate had been a major provider of materials to the Nazi war effort.

On July 6, Norway declares war on Japan. In Berlin, the Allied occupation forces hold a victory parade. Nicaragua becomes the first country to ratify the United Nations Charter. The government of Czechoslovakia announces that over three million ethnic German Czechs living in Sudetenland who had accepted German citizenship will be deported to Germany and Austria over the next 18 months. Their property will be confiscated as war reparations.

On Borneo, troops of the Australian 7th Division continue to move inland on July 7, assisted by Dutch and Dutch East Indian troops. France agrees to permit Syrian and Lebanese soldiers serving in the French Army to transfer to their national militaries.

President Truman on July 8 is informed that Japan might be willing to discuss peace if the nation can retain the Emperor on the throne. Shortly after midnight, at Salina, Utah, 23-year-old U.S. Army Pvt. Clarence Bertucci climbs a guard tower at a POW camp holding 250 Germans and opens fire on the sleeping prisoners with a 30-caliber machine gun. For the next 15 seconds, he riddles their tents with 250 rounds of ammunition, stopping only when disarmed by another soldier when Bertucci’s weapon runs out of bullets. Six Germans are killed immediately, three die later and 20 more are wounded. The victims are buried with full military honors at the federal military cemetery at Fort Douglas, Utah, near Salt Lake City. (After the wounded recover, they are repatriated to Germany.) Bertucci shows no remorse, saying only that he hates Germans, and so he killed them. Despite a lack of any evidence of mental impairment, a military panel declares Bertucci insane and commits him to a mental hospital. He dies in 1969. Known as “The Midnight Massacre,” the incident is considered the worst carnage at a POW camp in the history of the U.S.

Dutch troops land north of Balikpapan, Borneo, on July 9. American bombers strike two airfields near Tokyo.

On July 10, 1,022 American B-29s again bomb Tokyo, targeting some 70 airbases located around the city. German submarine U-530 — unaccounted for since April, when orders to surrender were issued by the *Kriegsmarine* — surfaces at Mar del Plata, Argentina, south of Buenos Aires. Certain irregularities — its two-month delay in surrendering, the absence of the sub’s deck gun, its missing ship’s log, and none of its crew carrying identification documents — spark speculation that the sub has ferried high-ranking Nazi officials to sanctuary in South America. (Not so, says the Argentine Naval Ministry, after an investigation.)

On Luzon, in the Philippines, American planes on July 11 drop thousands of napalm bombs on isolated Japanese pockets of resistance. British carrier-based aircraft conduct a bombing raid on Japanese airfields on the island of Sumatra in the Dutch East Indies. Dutch and Australian troops capture Balikpapan, Borneo, and its oil-processing installations. The Soviet Union agrees to turn over civilian and military control of western Berlin to British, French and U.S. forces. (The city of Berlin is located in the Soviet Occupation Zone of Germany.)

On July 12, concentration-camp survivors parade through the streets of Paris in remembrance of French victims of the Nazis. In Berlin, the British honor the Soviet military in a ceremony conducted at the Brandenburg Gate.

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The Citizens Campaign Unveils Comprehensive Police De-Escalation Policy “Tying Promotions to Officers’ Use of Appropriate Force”

Press Release 6/22/20
NEW JERSEY - The Citizens Campaign today unveiled a comprehensive de-escalation policy designed to bring about the culture change in police forces essential to making ‘use of force as a last resort’ and state-of-the-art de-escalation practices the accepted and adhered to standards.

The Citizens Campaign Comprehensive Police De-escalation Policy is centered around the incentivizing of state-of the art de-escalation practices, including a specific and measurable use of force policy, substantial and continuing de-escalation training, and tying use of force as a last resort performance to officers promotions. . These measures, according to The Citizens Campaign’s Law and Policy Task Force, are proven to not only reduce excessive force incidents, but to also reduce police officer injuries and the costs of police abuse lawsuits.

Under the proposed policy, the Camden County Police Department definition of de-escalation is employed: “Actions taken by an officer meant to stabilize a situation and reduce the immediacy of a potential threat so that a potentially dangerous situation can be resolved with voluntary compliance and without resorting to force”.

“The cold blooded killing of George Floyd is driving home the need for fundamental culture change in our city police departments,” said Harry Pozzycki, Founder of The Citizens Campaign. This comprehensive police de-escalation policy provides the incentives and practices required to change the culture of police departments by prioritizing de-escalation in everything from hiring to promotions.”

Jiles H Ship, President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Northern New Jersey Chapter, and member of The Citizens Campaign Law and Policy Task Force said, “We know that de-escalation works. Putting this comprehensive policy in place will ensure that police departments fully incorporate state-of-the-art de-escalation practices into the day-to-day work of policing.”

Civic Trusts, facilitated by The Citizens Campaign, are beginning to present the basic elements of this de-escalation policies to their local governments in 6 Civic Trust cities including: Newark, Paterson, Perth Amboy, Philadelphia, Plainfield and Trenton. Plans will be adapted to factor in varying existing local police department policies and community needs. Civic Trusts are comprised of about two dozen Civic Trustees per city who meet in monthly No-Blame Solution Sessions to find and import cost-effective, evidence-based policy solutions that have proven successful in cities similar to their own.

Outlined briefly below are the general plan elements:
Policy Elements:
1. Putting In Place Use of Force as a Last Resort Policy: Use of force policies , such as the one put in place by the Camden County Police Department,

which has primary law enforcement responsibility in Camden, provide clear and specific guidance for use of force as a last resort, contribute to significant reductions in excessive use of force incidents. These policies spell out that the first order of business is to work to “de-escalate confrontations with the goal of resolving encounters without force.” To have maximum impact, these policies should, as required in Camden, require officers on the scene to intervene when needed to prevent escalation as well as to report any incidence of the use of excessive force.

2. Substantial De-Escalation Training: Police departments who have implemented serious and expanded de-escalation training show significant reductions in injuries and fatalities for both civilians and police officers and much lower payouts in excessive force legal suits. Tying the training to the specific use of force as a last resort policy will make it even more potent. A 2015 study conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) of 280 law enforcement agencies, showed that there were 8 hours of training on uses of various kinds of force for every one hour of de-escalation training. The result of this imbalance in training, according to law enforcement experts, is that police officers are primed to use force rather than de-escalation techniques, resulting in violence that could have been avoided in at least some cases. Serious de-escalation training, teaches “officers to slow down, create space, and use communication techniques to defuse potentially dangerous situations. It also gives officers strategies to more effectively deal with people who are experiencing mental and emotional crises.

3. Tying Appropriate Use of Force to Promotions: Success in appropriate use of force should be given significant weight in promotions in order to incentivize the culture change needed. In addition, superior officers who have officers reporting to them should have the records of their division or precincts on use of force as a last resort incorporated into their over-all performance evaluations as well.

4. Requiring Body-Worn Cameras: Body-worn cameras mounted on an officer’s eyeglasses or chest area provide a visual record of use of force incidents and other more positive interactions with community members. Their required use provides the transparency that builds trust, deters the inappropriate use of force, and importantly, enhances evaluation and on-the-job learning. Keeping the cameras turned-on must be strictly enforced with consequences for officers that don’t comply. Experience in the Phoenix Police Department as well as others shows that even if there is a policy in place to do so, it will often be ignored, if not enforced..

5. Tracking Use of Force Incidents: Mandating the filling out of use of force reports, including the race and ethnicity of

suspects, is essential to building the accountability necessary for implementing a comprehensive de-escalation policy. Incidents must be reviewed with the officers involved for both evaluation of de-escalation performance and lessons learned purposes. Additionally, a comprehensive use of force report for the police department must be produced quarterly in order to measure progress on de-escalation and made public to ensure accountability.

6. Use Psychological Testing to identify police recruits who possess strong interpersonal skills. Psychological testing has been used by police departments mainly at the tail-end of the hiring process to rule out someone with obvious red flags, such as a wanting to ‘join the force because they like guns or want to drive fast’ or explicit racial biases. It is better, as some police departments are beginning to do, to use the tests earlier in the hiring process to help identify candidates who have high executive control of impulses and strong interpersonal skills that would make them more likely to be interested in and skilled at de-escalation. This kind of testing includes video of actual situations to gauge an applicant’s real time reactions

7. Connect Police to the Community: Research shows that regular contact with members of the community in non- law enforcement settings reduces implicit bias. Devising programs that bring police officers to high schools and junior high schools on a regular basis to meet with students to discuss their work and also to talk about careers in law enforcement- rather than employing them as enforcers of school discipline-- can help build mutual respect. Promoting regular contact with a broad-cross section of residents through a community policing approach is also essential.

Background:
The comprehensive police de-escalation policy was developed by The Citizens Campaign’s Law and Policy Task Force with input from Civic Trustees. The Citizens Campaign and the Civic Trusts it facilitates have advanced police/community relations by developing best practices for creating volunteer auxiliary police forces and developing mutual respect programs to improve police/youth relations in Trenton and Newark.

The Citizens Campaign is a volunteer community of problem solvers – government law and policy experts, civic-minded business leaders, citizen journalists, civic leaders, students, teachers, veterans and more – dedicated to educating citizens to the fullness of their political power and developing citizen leaders through leadership raining in government problem solving. The Citizens Campaign is now building a new citizen-driven,community-based National Public Service to develop responsible leadership from the bottom up. For more information, visit www.thecitizenscampaign.org

Pallone Unveils Legislative Package to Make Health Care & Prescription Drugs More Affordable

Legislation Also Expands Access to Health Care, Protects People with Pre-Existing Conditions & Reverses Administration’s Ongoing Sabotage of the ACA

Press Release 6/24/20
WASHINGTON, D.C. – As Americans face both the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting severe economic downturn, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today unveiled The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act, a legislative package that will provide much needed relief by making health care and prescription drugs more affordable. The legislation also expands access to health care, strengthens protections for people with pre-existing conditions, reduces racial and ethnic health coverage disparities and reverses the Trump Administration’s harmful actions to sabotage the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act makes health care more affordable by lowering health insurance premiums with strengthened and expanded affordability assistance. Specifically, the legislation expands eligibility for premium tax credits beyond 400 percent of the federal poverty line and increases the size of tax credits for all income brackets. The legislation creates a national reinsurance program to help cover the costs of consumers with expensive medical conditions, which helps lower premiums, and provides funds to states to help lower deductibles and out-of-pocket costs for everyone. It also offers funding to states to establish their own State-Based Marketplaces, which oftentimes have lower premiums.

The legislation also makes prescription drugs more affordable by empowering Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices and making those prices available to Americans with private health insurance. It will stop drug companies from ripping off Americans and charging them more than other countries for the same drugs. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that drugs subject to negotiation will see price reductions of up to 55 percent.

“The American people are anxious about their health and their economic future, and this legislation provides critical relief by making health care and prescription drugs more affordable,” Congressman Pallone said. “Too many New Jerseyans are forced to choose between putting food on the table for their family and taking a life-saving drug. This commonsense legislation takes the savings from lower prescription drug costs and invests it into lowering health care premiums and expanding access to affordable care. All around, that’s a

win for the American people. We must take action to lower these soaring costs, expand access to health care, rein in the Trump Administration’s efforts to sabotage the ACA and protect people with pre-existing conditions.”

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, one-third of American adults report that they or a family member have not filled a prescription, rationed medication below their prescribed dose, or skipped doses altogether because they could not afford the full cost. In New Jersey, the average annual cost of prescription drugs rose nearly 58 percent between 2012 to 2017. In 2017, 24 percent of New Jersey residents did not take medication as prescribed because of high costs.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act:

- Encourages states that have not expanded their Medicaid programs to do so by renewing the ACA’s original expanded federal match. If all states expanded Medicaid, about 4.8 million more Americans would be eligible for Medicaid, including an estimated 2.3 million people who are uninsured;
- Reverses the Trump Administration’s efforts to give states waivers to undermine pre-existing condition protections and weaken standards for essential health benefits;
- Stops the expansion of junk insurance plans that allow insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, put consumers at financial risk, and drive up comprehensive insurance costs;
- Restores critical outreach and enrollment funding that has been gutted by the Trump Administration and provide funding for navigators to assist consumers in signing up for health care;
- Combats the maternal mortality epidemic, which continues to particularly impact Black and Native American people, by extending Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage to new mothers from the current 60 days post-partum to one year;
- Further reduces racial and ethnic health inequities by expanding coverage and premium assistance to more Black and Hispanic Americans; and
- Protects vulnerable populations from losing health coverage by ensuring that Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries receive a full 12 months of coverage once enrolled, protecting them from interruptions due to fluctuations in their income throughout the year.

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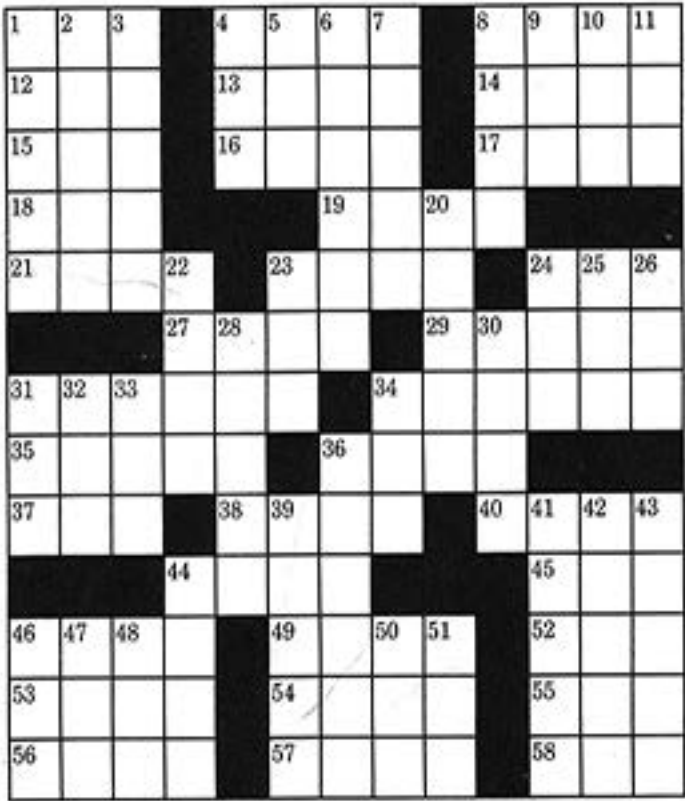
ACROSS

1. Atlas picture
4. Elongated circle
8. Genesis man
12. In the tradition of: 2 wds.
13. Harsh sentence
14. Soda-machine possibility
15. Signal for help
16. Be bold
17. Exam
18. Blasting compound: abbr.
19. Part of "MFA"

21. Furry sea mammal
23. Serving receptacle
24. Mr. King Cole
27. Very enthusiastic
29. Newport, _____ Island
31. TV dog
34. Got misty-eyed
35. Revises (copy)
36. Typical freshman
37. Uppermost point
38. Remove wrinkles from
40. Be aware of
44. Bit of gossip
45. Rhyming heavy-weight champ

DOWN

46. Jab
49. Operation reminder
52. Fool (around)
53. Fence bar
54. City vehicle
55. Mate of 8-Across
56. Nothing but
57. Daisy stalk
58. Family room
1. Poles on schooners
2. Without any company
3. Fettuccine or ziti
4. Like Father Time
5. By means of
6. Scared
7. Sly glances
8. Plays a role
9. Fawn's mother
10. Gore and Jolson
11. Bathroom rug
20. Age after two
22. Final
23. Expire
24. Word with "neither"
25. Summer citrus drink
26. TV's Koppel
28. Call on
30. Singer Williams
31. "_____ sleeping dogs lie"
32. Fuss
33. Wee swallow
34. The _____ Commandments
36. Male feline
39. Takes five
41. Not wearing any clothes
42. Pimento-filled food
43. Become broader
44. In a nonchalant way
46. Old hand
47. Was a cross-country competitor
48. Petroleum product
50. Lumber-jack's tool
51. Cup edge



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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!



PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy community came together to recognize and celebrate the Perth Amboy High School Class of 2020. Graduating seniors and their families stood outside of their homes with their caps & gowns to celebrate this significant milestone in their lives. In addition to PAPD and PAFD, Perth Amboy Public School district buses joined the parade with Class of 2020 banners and balloons displayed on the sides. A video truck also accompanied the parade looping a senior class slideshow of pictures throughout the 2019-2020 school year. **Photos Courtesy of Brian Wilson, District Supervisor Perth Amboy Public Schools & by Carolyn Maxwell, & Paul W. Wang*

South Amboy/Old Bridge High School Graduate Receives Scholarship for Virtual Valedictorian Speeches from National Education Organization

Submitted by: Terese Kelly Greer
SOUTH AMBOY/OLD BRIDGE - With high school graduations being canceled, postponed or transformed into a drive-by diploma pick-up, a national education organization called National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) is keeping the distinguished tradition of valedictorian speeches alive. The organization conducted a search for high school valedictorians/graduating seniors to give them the opportunity to still deliver their speech, share their inspiring messages and bid farewell to their peers – virtually – and provide a \$1,000 scholarship.
The following is a link to the selected speeches, which are creative, heartfelt and thought-provoking: <https://www.nshss.org/lp/nshss-virtual-valedictori->

[an-speeches/](https://www.nshss.org/lp/nshss-virtual-valedictori-). Two New Jersey students were chosen:
Faizan Khan from South Amboy, NJ/Old Bridge High School
“Now more than ever, students need to have ways to celebrate and be recognized for their outstanding achievements,” said James Lewis, NSHSS President and Co-founder. “They deserve a way to voice their thoughts during this uncertain time, and our new scholarship gives them that platform.”
Graduating high school students submitted a three-to-five-minute video submission of their speech, along with their high school transcript and a headshot. The scholarship was open to both NSHSS members and non-members, and applicants did not have to be named class valedictorian.



Novena to St. Rita

O holy protectress of those who art in greatest need, thou who shineth as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, blessed Saint Rita, bright mirror of God's grace, in patience and fortitude thou art a model of all the states in life. I unite my will with the will of God through the merits of my Savior Jesus Christ, and in particular through his patient wearing of the crown of thorns, which with tender devotion thou didst daily contemplate. Through the merits of the holy Virgin Mary and thine own graces and virtues, I ask thee to obtain my earnest petition, provided it be for the greater glory of God and my own sanctification. Guide and purify my intention, O holy protectress and advocate, so that I may obtain the pardon of all my sins and the grace to persevere daily, as thou didst in walking with courage, generosity, and fidelity down the path of life. *(Mention your request.)*
Saint Rita, advocate of the impossible, pray for us.
Saint Rita, advocate of the helpless, pray for us.
Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be three times each. K.M. & C.M.

**Remember to
Say Your
Novenas!**

**Petition to
St. Jude**

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.
Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.
Thank you, St. Jude M.P.

**The Paul Nagy
Project**

SOUTH AMBOY – 007 Drive-in Outdoor Concert, NJ Premier Classic Rock, Tuesday, July 7, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza. Rain or Shine!

Flea Market

SAYREVILLE - The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville has rescheduled their June Flea Market to September 12, 2020. The rain date is September 19, 2020. It will be held in the church parking lot at 172 Main Street (across from Borough Hall) from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are also still spaces available for vendors. For more information, please contact us at 732-257-6353 or email: churchoffice172@optimum.net. You can also check out our website at FPCSAYREVILLE.org.



**Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 15**



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY –The Five Corners - 1970's.
**Photo Courtesy of Mike Keller
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.*

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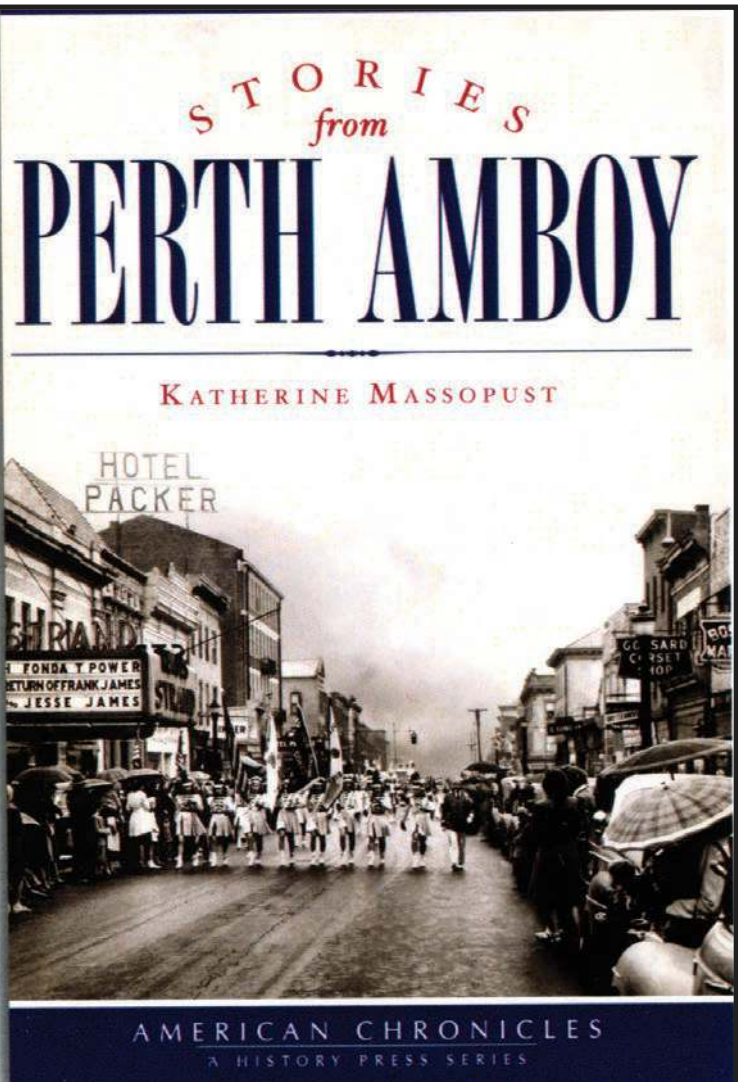
Pet of the Week

PERTH AMBOY, NJ - Why won't anyone give Pochito a chance? WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADOPT Pochito? He's a sweet, playful, loving kitty that has been waiting patiently for his forever home since his momma died. He sat alone in a room for months when how mom was in the hospital and she never came back. He has the nicest coloring and cutest stare. Pochito loves to watch you as you go about your day. He loves Friskies Lil Soups. Please give him a chance.



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Have a Special Pet?
E-mail us your Pet Photos to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com with Pet of the Week in the Subject line and explain why your pet is special. Please include Name and Phone# for verification.



Stories From Perth Amboy
PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available from Katherine at 732-261-2610 or on Amazon.com. A Great Gift! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!



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Realtor/Agent



Kaurys L. Polanco
Realtor/Agent

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Yngrit Martinez
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Happy Fourth of July!



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PERTH AMBOY - Move in condition. Well-kept single family. Must sign seller's and buyer's hold harmless and release regarding COVID-19. Central air. **\$239,000**



PERTH AMBOY - House is in good condition ready to move in finished attic. **\$339,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Two family separated utilities one block from waterfront and school. well-maintained off-street parking mutual driveway. **\$419,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beautiful Starter Home. Entire House newly renovated with laundry room. Move in ready. Excellent opportunity. 1 block from waterfront and in front of elementary School. Low taxes. Central A/C/ Heat and full basement. Showing time with supra box. Owner will allow down payment concession or will pay closing fees, one or the other. **\$268,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Looking to buy a new construction house? You got it! Close proximity to shopping, schools, entertainment and recreation. Minutes from major routes, 2 tory home. Brand new from top to bottom. Central AC, hardwood floor and Ceramic, granite, 2 car garage and more. 2 Brand new houses one next to the other one. **\$415,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Huge two family only a block from waterfront lots of rooms, off street parking separated utilities but water, unique two-family great condition. **\$550,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Stunning dream Bi-level featuring all the elegance and functionality and value at this great price. Three bedrooms, family room, dining room, garage, nice patio, central A/C, close to shopping and dining, easy access to NYC by bus close to all major highways and very close to Staten Island and Much more!!!! **\$334,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Two family, featuring 2-bedroom unit, garage and 2nd unit 1 bedroom with balcony located in the heart of Perth Amboy only few blocks from train station and all major public transportation. **\$359,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great brick two family separated utilities, off street parking, in very good condition easy to show. Very close to all public transportation. **\$429,000**