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Discussions Continue Regarding Management Salary & Salary Ranges and Opening Up the City for Business

June 10, 2020 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconferencing

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – Councilman Joel Pabon opened up a discussion during the Caucus regarding Ordinance No. 2 (no public discussion) - Fixing and establishing a schedule of salaries and salary ranges and increments for officers and employees of the city of Perth Amboy. Re: Management and Non-Union.

Pabon stated, “The council needs to talk more about this ordinance. Something doesn’t make sense.”

Council President William Petrick agreed and asked the council, “When should we meet to discuss this?”

Pabon was adamant when he said, “This should be our (the council’s) discussion. Other employees don’t have to be here.”

Petrick then questioned, “Should we discuss this tonight? At a special meeting? Or at our next regular meeting?”

Pabon continued, “I don’t know. We have to see if the other council members feel the same.”

Petrick stated, “I’m onboard.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry chimed in, “We should do this at a closed meeting.”

Petrick objected, “There needs to be a public discussion.”

After going back and forth between all the council members, it was decided that the meeting should be held in the council chambers so that the public can speak. It was also decided that instead of being on the phone, all the council members should be in the same room seated 6 feet apart.

After that decision was made, Irizarry questioned if the open positions that were supposed to be eliminated were eliminated. Council President Petrick stated, “All was not done.” He suggested that Irizarry look at the documents before and after to see what was changed.

Ordinance No. 2 was tabled.

Irizarry then questioned Ordinance No. 3 – Establishing protective measures during a local state of emergency. “I need further clarifications in reference to when tickets will be issued, and what hours would this entail regarding a state of emer-

gency.”

OEM Director Larry Cattano responded, “It depends on the type of emergency.” He gave an example such as Superstorm Sandy where power is lost, and you had damage. “That would entail a different type of emergency that we have now.”

Irizarry then asked, “What about people who violated the curfew hours?”

Cattano continued, “This particular ordinance is specifically tailored for Perth Amboy. No other municipalities had this particular ordinance on their books.”

Irizarry then questioned why there was nothing in his packet regarding R-188-6/20 – Amending CY:2020 Municipal Budget. He asked, “What are we doing here?”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch stated, “Everyone received the packet.”

Business Administrator Frederick Carr answered Irizarry’s concerns, “This is amending the Mayor’s budget, and is a decrease from the introduced budget from \$4.8 million down to \$4.2 million. Any increases or decreases are noted next to the items on your budget sheet.”

Carr then provided Councilman William Petrick concerns regarding R-193-6/20 – Overhead Door Maintenance and Repair Service in an amount not to exceed \$22,500 to NJ Overhead Door.

“This is a yearly contract for the overhead doors at the Fire Department.”

Irizarry then questioned R-196-6/20 – Awarding a 2-year contract for unleaded gasoline to National Fuel Oil using the Somerset County Co-op pricing agreement in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 starting July 1, 2020 terminating June 30, 2022.

Carr explained, “This cost is for 2 years. Also, the school uses our pumps.”

There were two late-starters that were added: R-199 and R-200.

Public Portion:

Resident and Businessman Jeremy Baratta spoke. He had concerns regarding Ordinance No. 2 which was tabled. “Where there was a position for a Director of Community Development

in the Department of Recreation – Salary of \$60,000.” He then questioned the Personnel Report. “A part-time position on the Planning Board? Who is this person?”

Council President Petrick responded, “It is the Secretary on the Planning Board.”

Baratta was not happy and stated, “She’s a contractor.” He then questioned why the Y has any cost at all since they have been closed down. His last question was regarding an insurance policy that has a stop-loss clause. “What type of policy is a Stop-Loss Cause?”

Petrick stated, “It’s a health insurance policy for the employees (of the city).”

Carr then answered a question that Irizarry had regarding the city’s budget referencing the school’s budget. Carr explained, “When the school board certifies their budget, a copy has to be sent to us, then that certified copy goes to the county.”

Council Comments:

Councilman Helmin Caba mentioned the peaceful protest he participated in on Saturday, June 6, 2020 and he wanted to thank all who were involved in the march. “It was peaceful, heartfelt and I was proud to be a part of it.” Caba stated a peaceful message is more powerful than what has been going on (civil unrest) in other places.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry echoed Caba’s words. “Some speaker said once the protest is over, we need to implement some of the policies and reforms that were mentioned. Don’t forget what was said.”

Councilman Joel Pabon cautioned residents that opposite side of the street parking will be changing back to the way it was. He then discussed the prospect of outside restaurant dining, “This could be a huge success if done properly. Code Enforcement and policing is necessary. A lot of people will not pay attention to the policy and there has to be a path for people to walk on the sidewalks (for any outdoor seating on public streets).”

Code Enforcement Director Irving Lozada came on the line,

**Continued on Page 7*

Black Lives Matter March, Perth Amboy 6/26/20

**Photos by Paul W. Wang*



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Improvements, Blighted Property of Many Topics of Discussion 6/3/20 Business Meeting via Phone Conference

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – 3 of the 5 Resolutions on the agenda dealt with getting local liquor licenses up to par (two were for the American Legion) according to City Clerk Debra Brooks.

One of the topics for discussion was about Kevin Cassidy who was a representative for Nationwide. Cassidy who is no longer associated with Nationwide had opened up his own firm and offered his services to the City of South Amboy employees which would be offered parallel with Nationwide. The discussion was for the council's consideration. Cassidy had a long history with South Amboy employees. It was discussed that Cassidy's new company may offer some things the old plan does not.

Council Comments:

Council Vice President Christine Noble inquired about outdoor dining for local restaurants. Council President Mickey Gross answered that Jay Elliot from Code Enforcement advised restaurants what they can and can't do.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski stated that he worked with several individuals in regards to zoning, construction, and covering the health aspect of the plan so they can have a position to operate. He stated there will be an application (no fee).

Council Vice President Christine Noble was concerned that the public would not have access to a rest room. B.A. Skarzynski stated that depends on the Department of Health. Council President Gross stated that the bathrooms are for the employees only because they are inside. Gross made a point to thank B.A. Glenn Skarzynski for all his hard work to get this going.

Noble then turned her attention to complaints from citizens of trucks blocking Raritan Street. B.A. Skarzynski stated if you witness this to call the police immediately to report it.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated, "I am delighted we are going to have outdoor dining. On the weekend I was at Mercer County Park. The rest rooms were open for two people at a time and they wore masks." Dato then commented on the work being done on John O'Leary Boulevard. "Sidewalks have been installed across the ballfield across from Shoregate. It looks wonderful - a great improvement! It's nicely done. Thank you!"

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz stated there was a grant which is approximately \$550,000 which covers close to 100% of the cost. "We are improving the areas that were bad."

Dato suggested that the agenda for the council meeting should be shared on the computer screen during the meeting. "It would be beneficial to see the agenda as we move along."

Dato also wanted an update on the former Stillwagon House which suffered from a fire

around a year ago.

B.A. Skarzynski stated, "The owner was in the hospital. It's been cleaned up." He then added that it will be demolished, and that the owner was served a summons, but the owner has yet to go to court. He explained that court is being held via videoconferencing and they only hear 15 cases a day, therefore the courts are backlogged.

Councilwoman Dato then brought up about calling seniors to make sure they are okay during this pandemic. Council President Mickey Gross had also emphasized the importance of calling seniors at previous meetings.

B.A. Skarzynski answered Dato's concerns stating that the city had called seniors who were registered at the Senior Center a week ago and they are continuing to do so.

Councilman Thomas Reilly thanked the Friends of South Amboy, the First Presbyterian Church and St. Mary's Food Pantry for their efforts during the pandemic.

Reilly then asked about when the ballfields would be opened up.

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "We are able to open the batting cages. We have not fully opened up all the parks. As long as we follow guidelines and social distancing."

Reilly then suggested there be a grace period for the water/sewer bills for the citizens.

Law Director Francis Womack answered, "We certainly have an ordinance in place to do it."

Reilly then brought attention to an illegal pallet operation on Washington Road. "We need to step up our efforts on it. The pallets pile up, then they take it away and the pallets pile up again. It's a fire hazard."

He then spoke about a run-down garage on First Street. "It's still in the same condition. There are rodents running in and out. We need to get it done. I am afraid a kid (waking by) will be bit by a rodent."

B.A. Skarzynski stated that there was a warrant out for the owner's arrest.

Reilly then mentioned that the South Amboy Historical Society was broken into a while back. He wanted to know if there were any measures being taken to prevent it happening again.

Skarzynski answered that a camera was installed.

Reilly then spoke about Roosevelt Street where the old Roosevelt Market was. He said there was high grass and it was in deplorable condition.

Skarzynski stated that the owner would like to go in front of a Planning Board, but the owner owes back taxes.

Reilly requested that the overgrown grass on the property be mowed.

Skarzynski stated that city hall will be back to full staff on the 19th but the city is waiting on the governor for opening up to the public.

Councilman Brian McLaugh-



**Councilwoman
Zusette Dato**

lin, who came late due to having to do a teleconference for work, asked about the merger of the First Aid Squad and Fire Department.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that he did not foresee anything getting done until the end of the year. He explained that in order for the First Aid Squad to be a division of the Fire Department, it requires an ordinance."

McLaughlin emphasized that the council should expedite this due to the current situation.

Skarzynski advised the council that the Mayor had given him specific instructions regarding this matter. This includes what part of the day they can be counted on to respond. "They are only answering 45% of their calls. 55% of their calls are being done by (several) ambulance companies that are not affiliated with this city."

Council President Mickey Gross's comments were directed at Cambridge. "I was out there Friday. I spoke to the manager on Saturday (5/30/20). They have trucks that are not supposed to be there. They are not good neighbors. They are filthy dirty; the grass is not cut. It is a disgrace they are here. This needs to be straightened out. I will officially reach out to the County Fire Marshall!"

Mayor Fred Henry stated, "We are on most of the things we brought up. We've had some issues. We had emergencies. I hope to get things started. We had an extremely disturbing event (referring to a recent incident at the South Amboy Train Station). I'm confident it will have a successful conclusion. South Amboy is not immune to the evils of the world. We are protected by a fine police department under the leadership of Chief Lavigne."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. All council members were present.

Correction

SOUTH AMBOY - In the past issues of the Amboy Guardian it was omitted that Council President Mickey Gross and Councilman Thomas Reilly acknowledged Saint Mary's Food Pantry for all their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Amboy Guardian regrets this error.

BACK TO BUSINESS

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CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
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OBITUARY: Charlotte M. Hayes

PERTH AMBOY, NJ/SPOKANE, WA - Charlotte Maria Hayes, 74 of Atlantic City, NJ passed away on June 4, 2020, in Spokane, Washington. Born March 10, 1946, in Atlantic City, NJ to Charles Washington Lorenzo Hayes, Sr. and Edith L. Williams-Hayes, Charlotte was native of Perth Amboy, NJ. Charlotte graduated from Madison Township High School in 1964. She went on to work at Frigidaire in Edison for over 20 years.



Charlotte M. Hayes
March 10, 1946 - June 4, 2020

She moved to Spokane, WA after the death of her mother, Edith L. Williams-Hayes in 2014 to be closer to her immediate family.

Charlotte loved her family very much. She had a deep love of the Lord and loved her many nieces, nephews, and the community of Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

Charlotte is preceded in death by her mother, Edith L. Williams-Hayes, father, Charles Washington Lorenzo Hayes, Sr. and Brother Charles Washington Lorenzo, Jr.

She is survived by her siblings; Edith L. Francis (California),

Horace Hayes (New Jersey), George Hayes (Pennsylvania), Reginald Hayes (Arizona), Albert Gardner (Iowa), Martha Hayes (Washington), Samuel Hayes (California), Jacqueline Jackson (North Carolina)

Charlotte's remains will be laid to rest in Perth Amboy, alongside her mother. Further, details to follow.

Please reach out to Aleana Jones at ajjones_78@yahoo.com for condolences to the family.



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

This Has to be Said

As I was growing up, the term "white privilege" or "black lives matter" would not have been relevant. My siblings and I grew up in a large house, large backyard, in the neighborhood that had all different ethnic groups. It was the "united nations". Some of the names were: Hughes, Wagner, Falafaka, Suswal, Torres, Curry, Jimenez, just to name a few. Kids in the neighborhood would play in the neighbor's back yard, playgrounds, or in a local indoor recreation center.

My father had worked at the Raritan Copperworks which employed many people who had immigrated from many different countries. Each year, there was a picnic for the employees. Later, my father owned a taxi service who employed men and women of all different backgrounds. If you were qualified for the job, you were given it.

There were a lot of people of color who owned businesses and homes. It wasn't anything rare.

My mother and father were a perfect match because they took parenting seriously and wanted only the best for their children. They set an example for anyone to emulate if they wanted to succeed. The most important thing when raising a child first and foremost is to teach them love and to respect themselves and others. I only saw respect and love between my parents. This also extended to my immediate relatives.

Like anyone else, I was stunned by the sadistic murder of George Floyd. My feelings about this is only those who committed this heinous murder and their superiors who knew about the record of this one officer should also be held accountable.

I cannot blame the police as a whole for the horrendous actions of a few. No child should ever have to see their father tortured this way. A GoFundMe account for Floyd's 6-year-old daughter, Gianna has raised over \$2 million. She has been given shares of Disney Stock from Barbara Streisand and a full scholarship to Texas

Southern University.

Colleges across the country are now offering George Floyd Memorial Scholarships. Some of them are \$50,000 for the recipient. I'm sure that the Floyd family would exchange all of this to have him back.

Look at the money being made off of George Floyd's death. When they raised money for the scholarships, will all of that money go for the intended purposes?

When of George Floyd's family members were interviewed, he broke down when discussing the riots and looting that took place.

This is exactly my point. Yes, you have peaceful protesters, but then it was marred by what I call accessories to murder which are the looters and rioters. A black business owner put on his store stating so, which would protect his property from looters. He was anguished when he stated: "They destroyed my business anyway."

Another black store owner cried out, "Black Lives Matter! - No, they don't! Look what was done to my store!"

Another heartbreaking video showed a family from New York who owned two pharmacies. There was a video camera showing looters breaking the metal gate, smashing the store windows and decimating the store. What was the most jarring, was that it was looters of all different racial backgrounds. The owners were distraught because they also took prescriptions of people who were being treated for cancer and undergoing chemotherapy. How sickening!

Many of the businesses that were owned, whether by black, white, or other people service communities and employed people in the communities. Now, these businesses are rubble . What about those black lives? I am just so upset.

As far as Black Lives Matter, I personally have a problem with the organization. It seems that they only concentrate on police brutality and killings involving white officers towards black

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THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Mad Max

It is hard to Imagine a Seattle Councilwoman named Kshama Sawant helped protesters raid a Seattle neighborhood called Capitol Hill District and took over city hall and a police precinct and renamed it (CHAZ)

Thank You
First Responders

The people of this state, and or government, would like to thank its' first responders for the selfless work and dedication in this national crisis. If not for the selfless dedication to helping us in our time of need, blah, blah, blah.

What a bunch of hooley.

I even saw a commercial on some TV station advertising for a first responder fund of some kind, not to mention the "Thank You" ads.

Well as I predicted in my last op-ed, it didn't last long. For those who don't remember, it read as follows:

"As a side note, I would like to salute all the first responders, doctors, nurses, and the rest of the people on the front line. The

Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone. It was like out of the movie "Mad Max" - free food, speech, and free of police. Has America gone wild? What's next? From COVID-19 to protests, riots, looting, and burning down businesses. Some say America is

near a tipping point or "The New World Disorder " is here. But wait when Election Day on November 3, 2020 comes, you are going to see Law and Disorder.

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

jobs you are doing are above and beyond.

However, you must enjoy the limelight while you can because this too will pass as the pandemic subsidies. Remember after 911, how everybody was flying the American flag afterwards. Funny how public opinion changes."

In fact, it took no time at all, the virus hasn't even gone away.

Some people seem to want to thank them soooo much that they will show their appreciation by setting things on fire, destroying property, and looting.

Who do you think responds to these fires and acts of violence, certainly not the thankful and grateful people. That's right, it's the first responders. The same ones that ran themselves ragged, and are still doing so in

some places, for this COVID-19 thing, of which everyone seems to be so afraid. That's who.

Yet we can't seem to thank them enough.

We thank them by killing and injuring them. We thank them by putting their lives, and consequently, the lives of their families in danger.

Some of our representatives, (notice I did not say leaders), tie the hands of the police when dealing with rioters and looters, (notice I did not say protesters), threatening to defund or even abolish them.

We set things on fire, destroy property, loot, and even shoot and kill them.

Yes, if there is truly a way to say thank you, that's it.

Joe Bayona

The Importance
of Being Tested
for COVID-19

The recent protest in Perth Amboy over the tragic death of George Floyd was peaceful and strove to correct injustices by some law enforcement officials in African American and Hispanic communities. It has grown to try to address other inequalities which lead to poverty, higher rates of illness, and a lower quality of education for those affected.

It is understandable that many want to add their voices to demand change. However, one concern is that during a pandemic, the protestors risk contracting the coronavirus and spreading it to their families and others in the wider community.

Perth Amboy is a hotspot for contracting Covid-19, in part because so many members of its population work in essential service industries such

as healthcare, food, and warehouses. It may be wise for protestors of our city and others to self-quarantine and be tested for Covid-19, and thus reduce the spread.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, United States infectious disease expert, has said that the large crowds, even if they wear masks, could cause the contagion to flourish and infect others, especially by yelling.

Many public officials have called upon protestors in their communities to be tested for Covid-19 to help mitigate this.

Governor Philip Murphy of New Jersey has urged protestors to get tested, that "it is the responsible thing to do." Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York has set up 15 testing sites for Covid-19, specifically for protestors. Other legislators throughout the country have urged the same. Mayor Muriel Bowser of Washington, D.C. has said that she is concerned about a possible spike in cases

as a result of the protests and has urged those who took part in them to consider self-isolating and being tested. Mayor Ras Baraka of Newark has urged all who protested as well as the police and anyone present, to be tested, as he himself was tested.

It is suggested that you contact your doctor or the Jewish Renaissance Center and explain the date that you may have been exposed. Because of the incubation period of the disease, it is important that they know when. The Jewish Renaissance Center provides tests to residents and those in the surrounding community. You need to call for an assessment and an appointment. By doing so, you may protect your health and that of others in the community. For to be able to fight for and enjoy liberty, we must protect our lives and those of others.

Marianne Zanko Komek

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RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A.	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK	365 CONVERY BLVD.
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TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL	238 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO	214 SMITH ST.
ZPA	281 GRACE ST.
IN SAYREVILLE:	
BOROUGH HALL	167 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT	111 MAIN ST.
IN SEWAREN:	
PUBLIC LIBRARY	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI	514 WEST AVE.
IN SOUTH AMBOY:	
AMBOY NATIONAL BANK	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER	126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL	140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER	200 O’LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER’S	200 N. BROADWAY
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
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CITY HALL	1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM	107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS	99 MAIN ST.
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Important!
Always call ahead of time to make sure any event you intend to attend will take place.
The Amboy Guardian will only put a cancellation notice in if we receive notice from the organizer of the event.



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2020 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates	
January 15	February 5
February 19	March 4
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	

Attention! Our Newspaper is available at Shop-Rite, Perth Amboy at the Courtesy Counter!

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy	
MON. Jun. 22	City Council, Caucus, 4:15 p.m. City Hall, High St.
WED. Jun. 24	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
MON. Jun. 29	Board of Education, 5:30 p.m. PAHS, Eagle Ave.
South Amboy	
WED. Jun. 17	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway
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 Your Events to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
JUNE 17, 2020 7 P.M. SOUTH AMBOY REGULAR MEETING
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Safety Announcement From Mayor Wilda Diaz Regarding the Recent Incidents in NYC and NJ
We are taking safety precautions in the City of Perth Amboy, emphasize that it is important:
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Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - **STAY ALERT!**
Do not think that any call or report is too small
Don’t allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life
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Deadline for Print Ads: 7 p.m. Thursday
Office Hours:
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Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Happy Father's Day and Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Perth Amboy Forms Beat-COVID Task Force

Press Release 6/8/20

PERTH AMBOY - Together with Mayor Wilda Diaz, The Citizens Campaign and Perth Amboy Civic Trust today announced the formation of the Perth Amboy Beat-COVID Task Force. The Task Force will ensure that health protocols, indexed for daily activities and, incorporating best infection prevention health practices will be communicated to all residents and businesses in a consistent and reinforcing manner.

The Task Force will also recruit community volunteers to assist with the assembly and distribution of quarantine kits, the distribution of masks and other tasks essential to limiting new infections and returning to public life. Quarantine kits include disposable eating utensils, masks, disinfecting cleansers, gloves and other items essential to successful isolation by people who have tested positive or have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and are living in more crowded situations.

The Task Force is comprised of Wilda Diaz, Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy, Dr. David Roman, Superintendent of Perth Amboy Public Schools, Carmen Southward, District Director of Operations, Larry Cattano, Deputy Chief and Office of Emergency Management Direc-

tor, , Thomas Shanahan, COO, Hackensack Meridian Hospital, Doug Dzema, Executive Director, Perth Amboy Housing Authority, Barry Rosengarten, Chairman, Perth Amboy Business Improvement District, and Cesar Romero, Perth Amboy Civic Trustee. It is the key component of a Beat-COVID plan presented to Mayor Diaz by the Perth Amboy Civic Trust.

“As we re-open our city for business we must make sure we do so with all the precautions necessary to keep our residents and businesses safe and healthy,” said Mayor of Perth Amboy Wilda Diaz. “The Perth Amboy Beat-COVID Task Force will ensure that our residents, businesses and non-profit organizations have the clear guidance they need to stay safe and defeat COVID-19.”

Perth Amboy Civic Trustee, Cesar Romero said, “Perth Amboy’s Civic Trustees looks forward to working with the Task Force in enlisting community residents in the essential tasks required to Beat-COVID.” The Perth Amboy Civic Trust is comprised of two dozen, volunteer Civic Trustees who meet in monthly No-Blame Solution Sessions. These citizen leaders work together to identify cost-effective, evidence-based solutions to the major challenges facing their city.

Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy Intensive Care Nurses Receive Silver Beacon Award for Excellence

Press Release 6/9/20

PERTH AMBOY, NJ – Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy Intensive Care Unit (ICU) announced today that it has been awarded the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Silver Beacon Award for Excellence. This is the second such award for Raritan Bay Medical Center, whose ICU nursing team in Old Bridge received the same designation in January.

“I am so proud of the exceptional nursing team at Raritan Bay Medical Center for earning this significant achievement, which recognizes its long-standing culture of nursing excellence,” said Theresa Brodrick, executive vice president and network chief nurse executive.

“This award represents a significant milestone on our path to exceptional patient care and a healthy work environment,” said Jane O’Rourke, chief nursing officer, Raritan Bay Medical Center. “We are honored to be acknowledged by the AACN for the excellence in professional practice that our nursing team exhibits every day.”

Established in 2003, AACN’s award recognizes top hospital units that meet standards of excellence in recruitment



Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy ICU team gathers together to celebrate the Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Silver Beacon Award for Excellence. *Photo submitted

and retention; education, training and mentoring; research and evidence-based practice; patient outcomes; leadership and organizational ethics; and creation of a healthy work environment. Units that achieve this three-year designation meet national criteria consistent with Magnet® Recognition, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the National Quality Healthcare Award. “This is a great accomplishment for this exceptional team,” said Thomas Shanahan, chief hospital executive, Raritan Bay Medical Center. “It is a true testament to the dedication and hard work our nurses put in every day to create a healthy work

environment and provide excellent care to our patients and their families.”

The ICU unit at Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy, along with its sister hospital in Old Bridge, are two hospitals in the central market that demonstrate continual learning and effective systems to achieve optimal patient care. The unit has evaluation and improvement strategies in place and good performance measures when compared to relevant benchmarks. It also employs an effective approach to policies, procedures and processes that includes engagement of team members and key stakeholders.

Discussions Continue Regarding Management Salary & Salary Ranges and Opening Up the City for Business

June 10, 2020 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconferencing

*Continued from Page 1

“The Zoning Officers will make sure to see if the restaurants are compliant with the regulations that are on the applications when applying for outside dining.”

Irizarry spoke up, “I remember when we (the council) approved an ordinance that applied to outside dining.”

B.A. Carr joined the discussion, “The guidelines for outside dining (for this situation) were discussed 4 weeks ago. People at tables have to be 6 feet apart. The Barge is looking at doing outside dining. We have to follow the governor’s orders.” Carr explained that each restaurant will be dealt with depending on their locations and how much space they have. “We have waived some of the normal fees associated in the past with outside dining.”

OEM Director Cattano joined the discussion, “Code Enforcement, Zoning, Public Works, OEM, and the Police will review all the restaurants who put in applications for outdoor dining.”

Irizarry voiced his concerns, “All these departments need to be on the same page.” He added that businesses don’t need to get conflicting information depending on what city departments they talk to.

Council President Petrick agreed with Irizarry’s statement.

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch spoke up regarding some of the establishments who have a liquor license, especially if they are due for renewal. “This is a temporary fix, but some of these restaurants can apply to the ABC for the extension of their liquor license.” Kupsch stated that any restaurant approved for outdoor dining, the customer must consume the liquor at the table.

Irizarry then questioned, “What about a time limit?”

Petrick also questioned, “What about a curfew? How late can they consume the liquor?”

Cattano answered, “10 p.m. which is on the city’s current existing ordinance. The local ordinance will prevail.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda spoke next, “Because I had to work on Saturday, I couldn’t participate with the parade, but I only heard positive things about it. As for opening the city, you are responsible for yourselves, your family and others. Churches are opening, but the governor said it is restricted to 50 people only. We can introduce other things (businesses) to open up, depending on how things develop.”

Council President Petrick said, “Church parking lots can be utilized. I was also working during the parade, but some people even though they were wearing masks, were not wearing them correctly. We will see if they will be coming down with the virus.”

The caucus ended at 5:28 p.m.

The regular meeting started at 5:43 p.m.

Public Comments:

Jeremy Baratta spoke first. He referenced Communication No. 6 – Perth Amboy Board of Education certifying the total amount required for school purposes for the 2020 - 2021 School Year the sum of \$26,380,336 is required to be levied. “This is a straightforward answer.” He then questioned R-194 – A contract to Hughes Environmental Engineering for Pool Pak preventive maintenance and repair in an amount not to exceed \$27,000. “Why so much on the Y pool? What’s going on in regards to reopening City Hall? We can have mass protests in the city. Put X’s on seats. Have people sign up to come into city hall. There had been no communications from city hall (regarding opening up the building).”

Council President asked B.A. Carr to respond to Baratta’s questions. “We are going by the governor’s directives. We are planning to open after all safety precautions are put in. Some city employees are already working. First of all, the plan is to have all city employees report. Then after that, there will be a date for the public to come in. There are some people who already are coming in because they need to get permits and they make appointments.”

Baratta continued, “The council chambers have enough square footage to allow for the public to come in (for meetings).”

Carr countered, “Social distancing is not based on square footage.”

Baratta continued, “It can be done, and the public can be seated six feet apart. What if the internet gets knocked out and you are not able to access via phone or computer? The council decides if this can be done. If people can get together without masks, this can be done (letting the public attend the meetings in person).”

The next person to speak was Rector Street Resident Jeanette Wilson-Perry. She had concerns about the sidewalk café, “What about people who come in as family’s or groups? What about restaurants with tables on the sidewalks and people waiting for seating? Would the city ordinance stating for an 8 p.m. curfew apply to the sidewalk cafes? Or will the curfew for everyone be raised to 10 p.m.?”

Petrick answered, “The 8 p.m. curfew will supersede other curfews. As far as the outside seating for the restaurants, everything will have to be 6 feet apart. When placing these tables on sidewalks, they have to take into consideration that the tables have to be spaced so that they do not to impede people walking by.”

Perry then asked the number of COVID-19 cases in the city. “Have they risen since more businesses opened up?”

Petrick replied, “We are still in the top three in the county. The administration will ask people to be cautious, wear masks, and

be sure to social distance.”

Councilman Helmin Caba spoke up, “Governor Murphy lifted the stay-at-home order and we should clarify the curfews now.”

OEM Director Cattano spoke up, “I have contacted the Department of Deputy Attorney General regarding non-essential travel ban. I’m still waiting for the callback. Because of Saturday’s march, there was a 7 p.m. curfew.”

Resident Justin Ross spoke next, “Did Perth Amboy flatten the COVID-19 curve?” Ross stated that the residents of Perth Amboy are not staying home, “Are we ready to open businesses? People are congregating on parks, on the street, and have large house parties. We need to have clarifications on the curfews, and any repercussions regarding opening up. The protest march on Saturday was very peaceful. I’m proud of our police department. Blacks are more likely to die at the hands of police.”

Cattano responded, “The cases are flattening. A lot of the labs are not sending reports to the city on weekends (any cases). Presently, there were 2,195 cases in Perth Amboy and 121 deaths. We are testing a lot more and have more test sites than other towns. All the tests are sent to the state, then they report back to us (the results). Test reports are not always sent

*Continued on Page 11

I'm running for MAYOR OF PERTH AMBOY

Perth Amboy City Hall has been plagued for 30 years, first by corruption, and for the past dozen years by divisiveness, turbulence, neglect and instability. Weak leadership has put obstacles in our city's path to progress. It has diminished our quality-of-life and smeared our great city with a poor reputation.

Perth Amboy wants a new vision. Our citizens want a strong new, sensible pathway to success. Perth Amboy is blessed with many wonderful amenities: A great location, tremendous resources, and solid workforce.

These valuable resources have been underused and undeveloped far too long. Worse, they have been exploited for political agendas and personal gains.

It's time to make new investments in our community and provide real solutions for Perth Amboy's most important issues: Fiscal responsibility, our public safety, our infrastructure, our quality-of-life, and our economic vitality.

I am running for Mayor of Perth Amboy to **end the turbulence** and provide **strong leadership** to address these issues. I want to hear your feedback. I want you to work with me to create a bright new vision for Perth Amboy.

Helmin Caba



HELMIN J.
CABA
FOR **PERTH AMBOY**

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Rose and "BJ" each have solid records of community involvement. They are committed public servants with fresh and innovative ideas.

Rose and "BJ" will bring **new vitality to City Hall**. Like you, they are eager to see tangible results that finally move Perth Amboy forward.

Our other campaign partner is YOU! Your feedback is as valuable as your vote.


Together, we can and will create **a bright 2020 vision for Perth Amboy!**



**HELMIN J.
CABA**

**ROSE B.
MORALES**

**BIENVENIDO "BJ"
TORRES JR.**

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Raritan Bay Area YMCA Announces New Volunteer Leadership

Press Release 6/1/20
PERTH AMBOY – The RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA has announced Mr. Lou Seminski as the new Chief Volunteer Officer. Mr. Seminski has served as a board member at the Y for 9 years. The Board of Volunteers has also selected a slate of new officers: Rosemary Oarsley, Vice CVO, Paul Pires, Treasurer, and Linda Mazzella, Secretary.

Mr. Seminski is an attorney at the Red Bank, NJ based law firm of Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla. Born and raised in Perth Amboy, Lou remains committed to the City and its philanthropic endeavors. Lou is currently a member of Investors Bank’s Advisory Board and has previously sat on the Board of Directors of the Raritan Bay Medical Center, now part of Hackensack Meridian Health (and has also been active with the Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation).

Mr. Seminski is a long-time member of the Raritan Bay Yacht Club. He is associated with multiple local chambers of commerce and his family owns Sciortino’s Pizza, with locations in Perth Amboy and South Amboy. Mr. Seminski, and his family, have strong roots in Perth Amboy and have long dedicated themselves to helping others particularly those in the City of Perth Amboy as well as in the greater Middlesex County communities.

“The YMCA in Perth Amboy has supported families through the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, the great depression, all of the world conflicts, civil unrest, and economic downturns. Today, YOUR YMCA continues to support the needs of families through Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. Our Community needs the Y more now than ever before. The new Officers, as well as all of the volunteer Board of Directors, are the voice of the Community. These thought leaders provide the strategic guidance to identify needs and develop resources and strategies to meet all sorts of challenges that arise every single day. Under our new leadership, we plan to continue the long standing tradition and legacy of The Y, continuing to develop programs and services that assist families with an emphasis on our local youth. We will continue to expand the Y’s footprint in the community through acquisition of real estate to aid the homeless as well as further expansion of child care, homelessness prevention activities and behavioral health services... the Raritan Bay Area YMCA is well positioned to assist families as we begin the journey of healing together”, stated Lou Seminski, new Chairman of the YMCA Board of Directors.

Ms. Rosemary Oarsley is a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy, attending both parochial and public schools thru high school. Prior to retirement (2017), was the Director of Behavioral Health Services @

Raritan Bay Medical Center where she oversaw the operation of two inpatient psychiatric units, an emergency department crisis unit and addiction treatment services. Rosemary is Past Governor, NJ District of Kiwanis International (2017-2018) (first Kiwanis Governor from Perth Amboy), current Chairperson of the Perth Amboy Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Eucharistic Minister/Lector at St. John Paul II parish, and Vice President of the Altar Rosary Society (also St. John Paul II).

"Giving back to my community has always factored highly both in my career choice as a Licensed Professional Nurse as well as in my volunteer work. Having the opportunity to serve on the YMCA board has been positive experience and has enabled me to build an awareness of the array of services that the organization provides to enhance the health and wellness of our residents. I am most excited to be able to provide input as we develop and expand the behavioral health services that we will be providing particularly as we confront new challenges in these unsettling times", stated Ms. Oarsley.

Mr. Paul Pires is a highly motivated, well-accomplished business professional with over 30 years of sales experience. Paul has the proven ability to build long lasting relationships which has enabled him to serve and maintain clients for the past 30 years. Mr. Pires is proud to that his branch is a top selling branch for Toshiba for the past 10 years.

Paul is happily married for the past 27 years and have 3 wonderful children. His son is in law enforcement and also gives back to the community. Besides for Volunteering as Treasurer of the YMCA, he is on the Board of Directors of the Portuguese Club, Board Member Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima Church/ Saint Stevens Church, Commissioner for Woodbridge Housing Authority, and also involved with fundraising for charity.

I am very passionate about my career through the everchanging environments and challenges I have built a strong solid team and I have led by example.

Linda Mazzella has been working at Raritan Bay Medical Center since 2005 and is currently the Team Lead, for Hackensack Meridian Health covering Physician Relations Management for the Central Region of the state. Linda enjoys servicing the Perth Amboy community by keeping the Hospital connected with the community.

The YMCA Board of Volunteers thank and commend Dr. Robert DePow for his tireless leadership as Chief Volunteer Officer for the past 4 years. Dr. DePow will continue to be an active member of the Board of Volunteers.

For more information please contact us, 732.442.3632 or info@rbaymca.org.

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.

Osaka, Japan, is bombed heavily on June 15, 1945. In the United Kingdom, King George VI dissolves Parliament in anticipation of the nation’s first general election since 1935. The election — scheduled for July 5 — has been called as a result of the Labour Party pulling out of the wartime coalition with (former) Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s Conservative Party.

The Japanese on June 16 are in a general retreat in central China. On Okinawa, fighting still rages in the south of the island. British naval units bombard the large Japanese naval base at Truk, in the Caroline Islands. Off Okinawa, the destroyer *USS Twiggs* is sunk by a Japanese *kamikaze* attack with a loss of 152 lives. Nearby vessels rescue 188 survivors.

Reinforced American units on June 17 advance on the Kunishi Ridge area of Okinawa, which has been stubbornly defended by Japanese troops.

On Okinawa on June 18, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., commanding the U.S. Tenth Army, is killed by Japanese artillery while on an inspection visit to the front lines. (Buckner, the son of the Civil War Confederate general, is the highest-ranking U.S. officer to be killed by enemy fire during the war.) In the Philippines, Japanese resistance on Mindanao, for the most part ends. Gen. of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower arrives in Washington, D.C., to a hero’s welcome. In Asia, the U.S. Army Air Force starts fire-blitzing 58 smaller Japanese cities. In London, William Joyce (“Lord Haw-Haw”) is put on trial for treason, for broadcasting Nazi propaganda over the radio from Germany. In Moscow, 16 leaders of the Polish underground movement (kidnapped from Poland and interrogated and tortured by the NKVD) are put on trial for “illegal activities” against the Red Army. During the trial, observed by the foreign press and representatives of the U.K and the U.S., defense witnesses are declared “unreachable” and no evidence is presented, other than the charges. Twelve of the defendants are sentenced to prison terms ranging from four months to ten years; charges are dropped against the remaining four. Although the Polish government-in-exile in London protests the procedure, neither the U.K. nor the U.S. governments do so.

The United Kingdom begins demobilizing from wartime status on June 19. British Commonwealth forces invade Thailand from Burma. On Okinawa, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Claudius Easley is killed by Japanese machine-gun fire as he visits the front lines to check on the progress of his advancing troops. Easley is the second American general officer to be killed in two days on the island. Spain is barred from membership in the United Nations so long as the Franco regime remains in power. In New York City, an estimated four million people turn out to cheer the motorcade of Gen. of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Schiermonnikoog, one of the West Frisian Islands in the northern Netherlands, is the last piece of European territory to be liberated by the Allies, when the German commander there surrenders to Canadian forces on June 20. On Okinawa, Japanese resistance remains strong, but American soldiers and marines are capturing thousands of surrendering Japanese soldiers. The scale of surrenders — as opposed to suicides — is unprecedented for the Imperial Japanese Army. The Australian 26th Infantry Brigade ends Japanese resistance on Tarakan Island in northern Borneo, an important oil source. In Rome, seven Italian generals are indicted for treason.

Organized resistance on Okinawa ends on June 21 after 82 days of fighting, during which 98,654 Japanese have been killed and 6,922 captured. U.S. losses are 6,990 killed and 29,598 wounded. On Luzon, in the Philippines, the largest Japanese-held port is taken by the Allies. Elsewhere in the Philippines, the Allies secure the islands of Cebu and Negros. In Italy, Ferruccio Parri replaces Ivanoe Bonomi as prime minister. The government of Czechoslovakia orders that all property of collaborators with the Nazis be confiscated.

In Tokyo, Emperor Hirohito on June 22 summons the country’s leaders to the Imperial Palace and suggests they approach the Soviet Union — with which Japan is not at war — as an intermediary for arranging a negotiated peace. However, since the Japanese leaders are not prepared to accept an unconditional surrender, the peace-feeler suggestion amounts to nothing. On Borneo, Australian troops capture the province of Sarawak. U.S. Army Gen. Joseph “Vinegar Joe” Stilwell takes command of the U.S. Tenth Army on Okinawa, replacing Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., who has been killed in action. The Japanese commandant on Okinawa, Lt. Gen. Mitsuru Ushijima, along with eight of his staff, commits suicide in his headquarters.

In the U.S., the San Francisco Conference Coordination Committee on June 23 completes the text of the United Nations Charter. Representatives of the Big Four Powers (China, the U.K., the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.) agree to admit Poland to the UN.

A victory parade is held in Moscow’s Red Square on June 24, where over 200 captured Nazi banners and flags are unceremoniously dragged across the ground and thrown in a pile in front of Lenin’s tomb. The hours-long procession includes 40,000 Red Army troops and 1,850 military vehicles and other equipment. Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgy Zhukov, riding the traditional white stallion of the conquering hero, takes the salute from the troops in the presence of Joseph Stalin, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and Marshal of the Soviet Union Konstantin Rokossovsky, the parade commander. The event remains the largest and longest military parade ever held in Red Square, even though heavy rains cause other significant parts of the celebration to be called off ahead of time.

In Sarawak, Borneo, Australian troops complete the occupation of the Miri oilfields on June 25. The Allies announce the division of Austria into four Administrative Zones — American, British, French and Soviet.

Chinese forces capture the airfield at Liuchow, China, on June 26. In San Francisco, California, representatives of 50 countries sign the United Nations Charter.

On June 27, Edward Stettinius resigns as U.S. Secretary of State to become U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Thousands of Polish refugees flee westward from the Soviet zone of occupation in Germany. The Japanese government takes control of all communications in the country in anticipation of an invasion. In Washington, D.C., the Federal Communications Commission allocates 13 television channels for the use of commercial broadcasts.

U.S. Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur announces on June 28 that, with the exception of needing to mop up some 23,000 isolated and trapped Japanese troops in various places, operations on Luzon, in the Philippines, are complete. Japanese casualty figures on Luzon are 205,535 killed and 9,050 captured; Allied losses are 37,870, including 8,300 killed. The U.S. Eighth Army is assigned mop-up duty, while the U.S. Sixth Army is to be reorganized for the invasion of Japan. In Poland, a Provisional Government of National Unity is set up by the Soviets. Though not recognized by the London-based Polish government-in-exile, the Provisional Government surprisingly also includes several members of the London-based group.

Happy 102nd Birthday to Mother Mary Gordon, 6/2/20**Photos submitted*

PERTH AMBOY - Congratulations to Mother Mary Gordon 102 year's old on 6/2/20. Living in Perth Amboy for over 40 years. The Senior Citizens Cathedral surprised her with a Drive by Happy Birthday Celebration.

**Outdoor Dining at Ciro's, Perth Amboy, 6/15/20****Photo by Carolyn Maxwell*

PERTH AMBOY - Outdoor dining has begun. Ciro's is one of the restaurants now open for outdoor dining.

Amboy Bank Celebrates Peggy Ann Dembowski's 60th Anniversary with the Bank**Photo submitted by Amboy Bank*

Ten years ago, George Scharpf, former Amboy Bank President and CEO, presents Peggy Ann Dembowski, Senior Vice President, with a plaque declaring June 10, 2010 "Peggy Ann Dembowski Day" in honor of her 50 years of service at the bank.

Press Release

OLD BRIDGE - Peggy Ann Dembowski, Senior Vice President, Cashier and Trust Officer, has celebrated her 60th Anniversary at Amboy Bank.

Peggy, a resident of Sayreville, joined the bank in June 1960 in the Accounting department and has continued to assume increased responsibilities over the years, culminating in being approved as a Senior Vice President of the Bank by the Board of Directors. "Peggy Dembowski has been invaluable to Amboy Bank during her remarkable career. She has always been willing to fill a need, lead by example, and represent what Amboy is for generations of clients and associates," said Greg Scharpf, Amboy Bank President and CEO. "Peggy has been, and continues to be, a dedicated employee and a friend and mentor to so many at Amboy."

A graduate of St. Mary's High School in South Amboy, she holds an Associate's degree in Accounting from Marywood College and holds certifications in many Banking areas.

Ten years ago, the Amboy Bank Board of Directors adopted June 10th as "Peggy Ann Dembowski Day" in honor of her 50th anniversary with Amboy. Ten years later, the Bank is just as proud.

Founded in 1888, Amboy Bank, a full-service commercial bank with 23 offices in central New Jersey, prides itself on quality service and responsiveness. They have been voted "Best Bank in Central Jersey" for the past 22 years in a row.

Discussions Continue Regarding Management Salary & Salary Ranges and Opening Up the City for Business

June 10, 2020 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconferencing

**Continued from Page 7*

right away."

Councilman Irizarry then questioned, "As far as opening up, do we have to go by what the state says?"

Petrick responded, "We can set our own policies if the number of our cases are high (number of infections and deaths). We can also set our own policy when businesses can open."

B.A. Carr then added, "The curve is flattening in the city, and the governor has set guidelines for the type of businesses that can open (such as hair salons). Some restaurants won't meet guidelines for outdoor seating." Carr then responded to Ross's concerns regarding large gatherings, "We have cited 3 residents (who have violated this order)."

Councilman Joel Pabon added some comments, "One of the guidelines (established by the state) was to have 15 consecutive days of declining cases of COVID-19. We have been really good at doing this. The bottom line is we have to open up and people have to live. Some people don't get paid if they don't work. If we don't try (opening up), we won't know."

When it came time to voting on the agenda, Ordinance No. 1 regarding engineering was moved by Irizarry and second-

ed by Pabon. Ordinance No. 2 regarding management and non-union salary and salary ranges was tabled. Ordinance No. 3 establishing protective measures during a local state of emergency was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Pabon. For the consent agenda resolutions, R-188-6/20 - Amending CY:2020 municipal budget was asked to be pulled to be voted on separately by Irizarry. Consent Agenda R-187, R-189 thru R-200 was moved Irizarry and seconded by Caba. R-188 was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Pabon. When it came time to vote separately, everyone voted "yes" except Councilman Irizarry who voted "no."

Public Portion:

Resident Jeremy Baratta was the only person who spoke at the last public portion, "I cannot believe that you didn't discuss the \$27,000 regarding the resolution for the YMCA. That amount could be a salary for a police officer. I appreciate when Larry Cattano gives updates on the COVID-19 situation. We are a preemption state meaning the state overrides the local laws. On Snapchat, people are not wearing masks, and they are having parties. It's time to open the city back up. We need to get businesses back to normal." Baratta then asked, "Are there any salary reductions being voted on?"

No one answered.

Council Comments:

Councilman Helmin Caba asked, "Are the parking meters going to be operational on 6/22/20?"

B.A. Carr responded, "No decisions have been made regarding enforcing meter parking. This is to encourage people to shop downtown."

Both Councilmen Irizarry and Pabon had no comments.

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda urged everyone to be safe and exercise caution. "We are still #1 regarding COVID-19 cases, and we are still waiting for the state results."

B.A. Carr spoke up briefly and addressed Councilman Irizarry, "Since you (Irizarry) are retired, you can come to my office, and I'll go over the budget with you."

Council President Bill Petrick wished everyone a safe night. The meeting adjourned 6:32 p.m.

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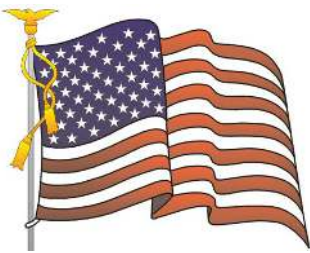
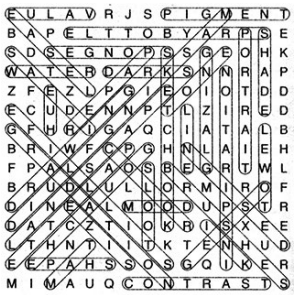
OTHER

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!

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 15



Pet of the Week



Let us make the bed Cleo!
Perth Amboy- Cleopatra is no ordinary cat. We knew when we adopted her, she was special. She quickly got used to her new home. Cleopatra is a female tuxedo cat. She is all black except for her chest, underbelly, and feet which are white. Her eyes are a gleaming yellow. At night Cleo goes crazy! Knocking over pictures and jumping on chairs. She loves to sleep with any family member - but be willing to give up your pillow. Cleo's also a traveling cat. She's been to Myrtle Beach, the Poconos, Maryland, and Atlanta, Georgia. Cat food? What's that?! Yes, she eats normal cat (wet food), but this cat has eaten anything eatable. Between sneaking mashed potatoes and chicken. She even licked ice cream (when we didn't look). Cleo had it all! Sometimes Cleo will run outside. But now at one word she walks inside. Cleo is a lovable, friendly, mischievous cat.
A thought: Arguing with reality is as crazy as if we tried to teach a cat to bark and at the end of all our efforts, we were upset when the cat still said, "Meow". - Lent 2020 Love, Jacquelyn

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.

Editorial *Continued from Page 4

men.
No one wants to look at the elephant in the room which is the black gangs killing young black children and adults. Why is there no outrage over this? Why are the politicians not addressing this?
Any politician, peaceful protester, celebrity, who wants to go with me to a crime infested neighborhood, I am up for the challenge. At least I know, I'll have protection - you know from the police department that some of you want defunded. Celebrities also have their private security with their guns.
I look at YouTube videos of mothers crying who lost not just one child, but multiple children to gang violence. Why don't you look at the stats just for one month in Chicago, Baltimore, and other inner cities.
To the celebrities, with your apologies of having white privilege, just cut it. You are not doing anything except hoping to make yourself feel better.
Do you think the peaceful civil rights workers of years ago who were attacked by dogs, beaten with police batons, and were hosed down forcefully with fire hoses had taking down monuments on their mind? No, they were doing serious work. Work that made a difference. They were not protected by the police like you are now despite calling them "pigs in the blanket" and "fry them like bacon!"
Way back then, try throwing some rocks at cops. You would be coming home if you were lucky in a body-bag.
Just remember today, I am only referring to the looters and rioters, and not peaceful protesters.
As a matter of fact, in Perth Amboy, the protesters were treated to hotdogs and water after the activities had concluded.
I also would like to commend Newark residents who stood up against potential looters and rioters and stated: "Our police are tired! You are not going to destroy our neighborhood!"
I was also moved by some peaceful protesters and some residents who were armed to protect their businesses and residents and they embraced one another.
There is hope after all.
Carolyn M.

Editorial

Our Country

2020 - The year from hell. Australia burned down, global pandemic COVID-19, killer hornets, race riots, destruction, looting. The last 5½ months have not been easy.
But what I want to talk about is the direction the United States is going. Recent riots have gotten me alarmed. I AM NOT talking about the peaceful protests - that is one thing. But when people hurt others, destroy property, burn police cars - that is another matter. No one has a right to vandalize, loot, and destroy property and hurt others.
It is as if someone were stirring up trouble manipulating the population of the United States to destroy itself.
Censorship is another concern. I never believed in censorship. I feel one should read anything and everything. Now under attack is movies such as Gone with the Wind, statues of Christopher Columbus, Robert E. Lee, and other parts of America's history.
I disagree about removing these "offensive" things. We need to learn from our past - not destroy it. We need to talk about politics and history - not hide it. And to all these people destroying statues and monuments - It is NOT going to change history.
What is happening now is almost everyone is offended by something. This is where the United States is heading - we all will be wearing the same grey uniforms with short hair.
We all will become drones that are slaves to a radical authoritarian government that will permit no individuality, freedom, or any rights that our forefathers fought for. We will eat synthesized food and have no pleasure in life whatsoever, but a boring existence. There will be no books, no movies, no church - nothing! Right out of George Orwell's 1984. This is because all these things offend someone. We are destroying the very diversity we are trying to protect.
God likes variety. If God did not like variety, we would all look and sound alike. But we are all different. Everyone likes different things and in America, our individuality is what makes this country special. Whatever happened to being proud of being American? Now, it is as if it's a sin to like the country you live in.
I say no to censorship, no to riots, no to destroying our past. Yes, the United States had slavery. Yes, we were cruel to the Native Americans. No nation is without sin. But we must move past that. I do not want a government telling me what television and movies to watch, what books and magazines to read. Whatever happened to the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave? We have become the land of the offended and the home of the hate. THIS MADNESS MUST STOP!
Katherine M.

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – The Waterfront Walk being constructed - September 23, 1993.
**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.

We Value Your Opinion!
Please Send Us A Response!

Historical Reflections of Anguillian Offspring in Perth Amboy, NJ

By Eric Hughes. I am the proud offspring of Anguillian immigrants who migrated to Perth Amboy, NJ and I am sharing our story for posterity. Eric Hughes can be reached at richughes3741@gmail.com

And now I proudly present the outstanding and historical stories, careers and talent of these pioneering young men, spear-headed by their dedicated Anguillian immigrant parents.

PART IV Summary

How does one account for the tremendous success displayed by these five Anguillian offspring during the difficult era of race relations in the US? How were they able



The Five Sharps (L to R) – Cedric Richardson, Winston Hughes, Franklin Gumbs, David Rey and Cedric Hodge. All were honored in this article except Cedric Hodge.

to defeat racial odds by winning the highest elected offices in their respective classes? How were they able to convince the majority of white classmates to trust them? What type of inner motivations did they have that would eventually lead them to be so successful in their important positions? It might be noteworthy to mention that all 4 of the class presidents were greatly encouraged by the support of Cannon George Boyd, rector of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Perth Amboy.

I am also convinced that their success can be traced to their strong Anguillian upbringing, where their parents applied a no-nonsense approach to raising their children. At times, the parents used tough love as a way to back up their philosophy. For instance, if their children’s grades were unsatisfactory, they denied their children’s participation in school activities such as sports and cheerleading; limited their playtime outside after school and some weekends; and added extra home chores.

Another recipe for the success of the Anguillian offspring can be attributed to the fact that after completion of high school, they steered them away from the Perth Amboy oil refineries and other factories, where they themselves were forced to work to rear their children. Accordingly, they emphasized education as a game changer and a means to be successful in life. It worked!

All honorees went on to have outstanding professional careers as school superintendents, school principals, music educators, politicians, counselors, coaches, etc.

We are thankful for these exceptional trailblazers who as youngsters demonstrated early leadership skills, courage, intelligence, strength, fortitude and social skills to achieve their goals and objectives. God Bless them!

By writing this article, I hopefully demonstrated by example, the outstanding leadership and accomplishments shown by the offspring of immigrants from the tiny Caribbean Island of Anguilla. Once the original Anguillians arrived in this country, they knew and planned to ensure the lives of their offspring would be drastically different and better than theirs. I believe they succeeded and did an outstanding job.

It is abundantly clear that it should not have taken so many years to recognize these outstanding and record-setting trailblazers while they were alive (only Cedric Richardson is still with us today). However, the author is content that this story at least now has been documented and publicized for socio-cultural historians and others to absorb.

My goal is that this article is officially published and used in schools as a teaching tool about diversity, motivation and historical facts about Anguillian immigrants who settled in the small coastal city of Perth Amboy, NJ. It should be circulated widely to motivate young Anguillian offspring, to African American youngsters and youth from other countries, to motivate them to believe that they too can have a successful life through education, mental toughness, intestinal fortitude and perseverance.

Anguillian Offspring Enshrined in the Perth Amboy, NJ High School Hall of Fame (to date)

- 1. George Carty
 - 2. Hubert Carty
 - 3. Austin Gumbs*
 - 4. Eric Hughes
 - 5. Winston Hughes*
 - 6. Dr. Bernard Richardson
 - 7. Dr. Herbert Richardson*
 - 8. Dr. Carolyn Richardson*
 - 9. Dr. Joyce Richardson (Melick)
 - 10. Cedric Richardson
- *Deceased

Contributors to this Article

Ms. Vilma Novak (photographs and demographics from the Perth Amboy Library and Rutgers University), Ms. Joycelyn Gumbs (photographs and information related to her dad, Austin Gumbs and uncle, Franklin Gumbs), Professor Yinka Stanford (editing), Ms. Lois Ruffin (photographs), Mr. Cedric Richardson (the only living honoree), and Mr. Aaron Peters (computer technology).

PART V

Honorable Mention

The beginnings of The Five Sharps occurred in the early 1950s on the porch of 285 Bertrand Ave. in Perth Amboy, NJ. Five (5) close friends started casually harmonizing songs and realized that together they had extraordinary talent. Mr. Morris Nanton, a NY Juilliard School of Music graduate and an expert pianist, took notice and helped arranged the songs they chose to sing. Mr. Nanton’s assistance enabled The Five Sharps to win numerous local talent contests, and became some of the favorite and most popular of students at Perth Amboy High School. Their outstanding singing and showmanship were demonstrated at many school assemblies and local talent shows.

The highlight of their career occurred when they entered the respected Harlem NY Amateur Night at the famous Apollo Theater where they competed against very strong talent. They were good enough to place second in the competition. Their signature song was “Blue Moon.” They also sang “Someone to Watch Over Me,” “Quizás, Quizás Quizás,” “What Are You Doing New Year Eve?” “Deacon Jones,” and several other popular songs. They were approached by an agent to go on the road to demonstrate their talent but were much too young. In addition, their strict Anguillian parents bristled at the offer by agents to have their child leave school to perform. Their parents had other plans for them – to finish high school and continue on to college which they all successfully accomplished.

About the Author

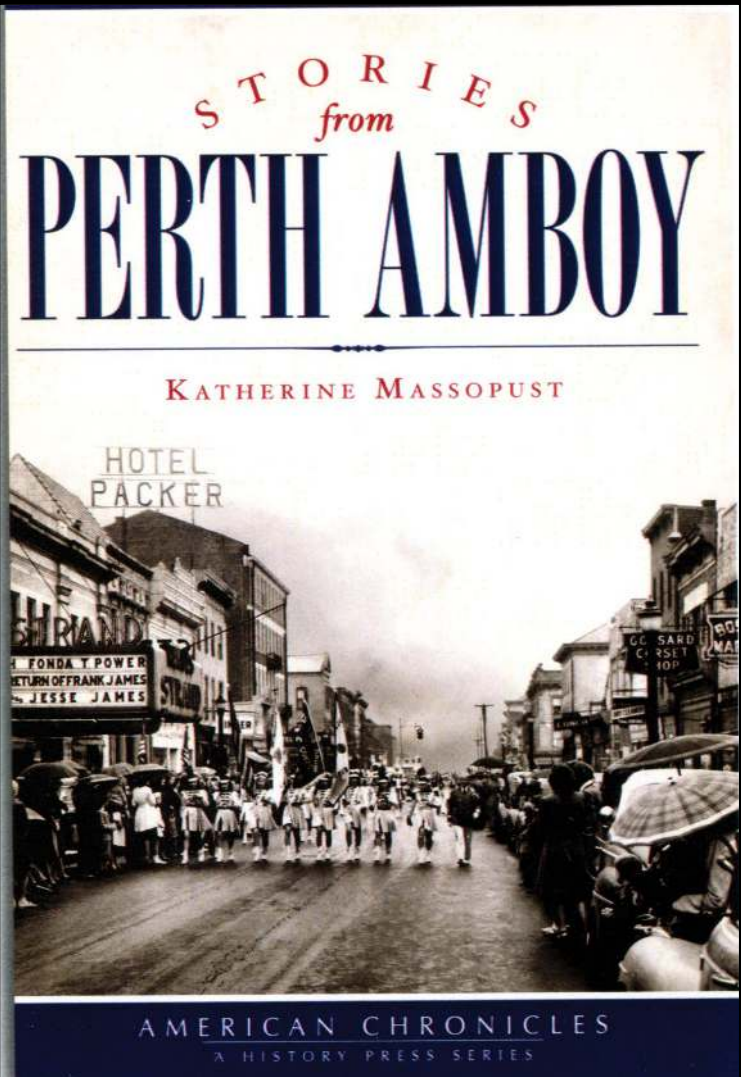
Eric Hughes, proud offspring of Anguillian immigrants, graduate of Perth Amboy, NJ High School; inducted in 2005 into the Perth Amboy, NJ High School Hall of Fame; US Air Force veteran; trained in tele-communications and cryptography; retired federal government employee (US Department of State, US Department of Commerce); three-time published author; consultant; Founder of the Anguilla Pocket Billiards Association; Founder of the 3-cushion Billiards USA “B” Championship Tournament; recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the Anguilla Progressive Association of New York (2019); earned a B.Sc degree in Community Planning and Development from the University of the District of Columbia, and a MPA degree in Urban Affairs from American University; long-term resident of Washington, DC, married (Norma) with two daughters (Tracy and Wendy), four grandchildren (Chase, Riley, Brandon and Logan) and one great-grandchild (Aiden).

Alameda Gives Coffee to Healthcare Workers at Hackensack Meridian, Perth Amboy 6/10/20

*Photos by Paul W. Wang



Alameda serves coffee to healthcare workers at Hackensack Meridian, Perth Amboy.



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25. SHADE

E U L A V R J S P I G M E N T

B A P E L T T O B Y A R P S E

S D S E G N O P S S G E O H K

W A T E R D A R K S N N R A P

Z F E Z L P G I E O I O T D D

E C U D E N N P T L Z I R E D

G F H R I G A Q C I A T A L B

B R I W F C P G H N L A I E H

F P A L S A O S B E G R T W L

B R U D L U L L O R M I R O F

D I N E A L M O O D U P S T R

D A T C Z T I O K R I S X E E

L T H N T I I T K T E N H U D

E E P A H S S O S G Q I K E R

M I M A U Q C O N T R A S T S

26. SHAPE

27. SIZE

28. SKETCHBOOK

29. SPONGES

30. SPRAY

BOTTLE

31. STILL LIFE

32. TONE

33. TOOLS

34. TOWEL

35. VALUE

36. WATER

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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. Corner property 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. **\$424,000**



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 - Welcome to this large 3 level Townhouse, with 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, family/office room, Master bedroom has a full master bath with double sink, tub, and shower stall. This unit also has a private front Paver Patio yard before you enter the Townhouse. Two parking spots in covered garage/parking deck included. The unit has 1 assigned parking spot that comes with Townhouse and owner pays additional fee for 2nd spot which is already included in maintenance fee. **\$269,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great Location. Just 5 Min from NY Very low taxes. **\$225,000**



SOUTH AMBOY - Duplex two family home, showings by appointment only. Property being sold as is and buyer responsible getting c.o. seller will not make any repairs if needed, Price is Firm. One unit has 2 bedrooms plus a large finished room in attic, 2nd unit has 3 bedrooms. One is a walk-through bedroom. **\$369,000**



ST. BELLEVILLE - Beautifully renovated home with recently installed backyard patio paver area. Ready to move in. Buyer responsible for Certificate of Occupancy, smoke certificate and any repairs. Property sold as is condition. **\$400,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great single-family house move-in condition hospital location, 3 bedrooms low taxes a must see. **\$229,000**



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