



CITY OF PLAINFIELD

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLICATION

December 21, 2011 3:00pm—(More information to follow)

Good afternoon to members of my administration and staff, and to Mark from the Courier News and from the Star Ledger Newspapers. Thank you for covering this Press Conference today.

Happy Holidays to you your families and the families in the beautiful City of Plainfield. I pray for you every day. I pray for your strength, health, unity, employment, housing, best quality of life and of course your safety. May the New Year bring your families Blessings, peace, harmony and all of the riches that life may offer.

I have assembled this meeting today to clear the air and to respond to the requests, prayers and well wishes of so many members of the Clergy and Church Families, city stakeholders, employees, residents and friends of Plainfield who have continuously supported me, my administration and my vision for wanting the residents in Plainfield to have the best possible quality of life. The outpouring of prayers, love, unity and support has been phenomenal. As you have requested, I have kept my head up high and I have continued to be a great support to this community of Plainfield.

Simply stated, I am in receipt of a written report from the Plainfield City Council President Annie McWilliams, and Council Chairman Adrian Mapp, which was prepared by the City Council's attorney, Ramon E. Rivera, Esquire of the law firm Scarinci Hollenbeck from Lyndhurst, New Jersey. Although I feel no ill will toward Mr. Rivera, as he was placed in an unfavorable position in having to render a decision on a matter which he didn't witness or know anything about, I am thankful that he was able to exonerate me and my administration and staff by recognizing that there was no criminal act done, there was nothing done which should have resulted in anyone being arrested, there was nothing done which would require me to be removed from office or any employees to be fired. For that, I thank him and his firm.

I am here this afternoon to remind my community of the factual information



relative to our need last year for a Community Forum which took place on Sunday, August 1, 2010. Some people have dubbed it the Rev. Al Sharpton event; some have called it the WBLS event, but the correct name of the event is the “City of Plainfield Community Forum”.

Unfortunately, you will hear or read in blogs or other media some erroneous comments from very opinionated individuals who are uninformed and only wish to be evil in their comments. To them I say, “God Bless you”, and offer my hope that in the new year, they will find a positive purpose for being on this earth.

Please don’t be swayed by their comments, as they are not the official spokesperson for this city, as your Mayor and CEO, I am your official spokesperson who will always provide you with factual information.

For over a year, the majority of the City Council decided to investigate me and decisions to protect this community. While I do not take issue with them if their goal was to review a matter; that is their right, but I do take issue in the manner in which they chose to move forward. The disrespect for the Office of the Mayor and specifically for the person who you, the public, voted in to represent your interests, families and needs have publicly cast a negative cloud and have purposefully made it difficult to do business on behalf of the city.

Some have attempted to shame my name, vilify my character and thought that by applying so much pressure on me, their hope of personal political aspirations, would force me to either relinquish my position or worse, they thought they could have me removed from my position as your Mayor. They wasted hours and hours, and thousands and thousands of city taxpayer dollars, only to be unsuccessful.

Before giving you a professional summary of what occurred, I need to say what is on my heart...to those who have been referred to in this matter.

First of all, to all of my Plainfield families who lost a loved one or had a loved one injured due to violence previously experienced, it is sincerely out of love and respect for you and your families, that many decisions have been made. I pray for your healing; we love you, you will always have my support.

Next, I need to address a friendly associate to this city. To the owners, staff and personalities of the radio stations WBLS/WLIB, I want to express my sincere thanks on behalf of our residents, employees and business owners. You have been very kind to us and the people should know that you have provided hours of free services to assist this community. I hope that you will continue to be our



associate as you have helped us tremendously. Thank you.

To the owners and staff of Investors Savings Bank now known as Investors Bank, on behalf of the people who we serve, I extend our thanks to you for your community service. You have been great in this community and we look forward to a continued great working relationship on behalf of our residents, employees and business owners.

To the individuals who have joined me under the name of the “Plainfield Taking Back Our Streets Task Force”, thank you so much for your love of people and for your willingness to be volunteer mentors.

The City council through their attorney, subpoenaed me to come before them to testify. On Wednesday, October 19, 2011, I appeared on behalf of the people who I serve, and gave testimony and answered questions. In my professional opinion, this was a waste of time that could have and should have been better spent. It should also be noted that I complied and appeared although I was grieving and should have been with my family helping to make funeral arrangements for my Grandmother.

I extend my personal and professional gratitude to all of the people who have been so kind. Many have and continue to pray for me on a daily basis, thank you to my Pastor Rev. Tracey L. Brown and our Church Family of Ruth Fellowship Ministries and the many other Plainfield and outside of Plainfield Pastors who pray for me thank you to the many residents, adult and youth who have either stopped by my office, or by my home or at an event or even just by my vehicle, to instruct me to keep my head up and to thank me for standing up for the community of Plainfield. I want the community to know that everything that was done was done on their behalf; if they require additional information please schedule an appointment to see me. I want the Council to know that I harbor no ill will against them and hope that in the New Year we can really work together for the good of the Residents.

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