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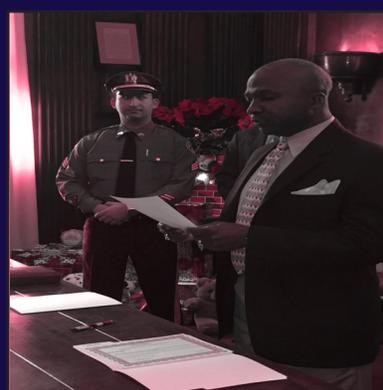
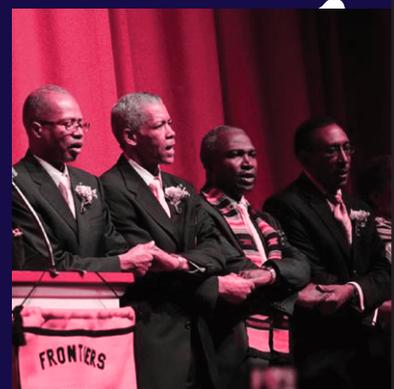


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On

Future.



One Plainfield, One Future.



One Plainfield,

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One Future.



# STATE OF THE CITY

One Plainfield. One Future.

## Message from the Mayor

I am pleased to report that the City of Plainfield is a City on the move. Since I took the oath of office I have worked every day to improve the lives of all the citizens of Plainfield. We have accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time. On January 5, 2015, I delivered my State of the City Address. In my speech I highlighted three important areas that were a focus of my administration: getting our City's financial affairs in order, public affairs and safety, and economic development. This edition of my administration's newsletter will highlight some of our early successes that I summarized in my State of the City Address. I will also update you on the ongoing activities of your city government. We will continue to work every day to transform this city into one that all its citizens can be proud of. One Plainfield, One Future. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me as your Mayor. I wish everyone a safe and happy spring!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian O. Mapp".

Mayor Adrian O. Mapp  
City of Plainfield

## THE STATE OF THE CITY OF PLAINFIELD

On January 5, 2015, I delivered my State of the City Address. I highlighted three important aspects my administration achieved in just one year in office – the restructuring of our financial house, reduction of crime, and the critical need for economic development. I am immensely proud to share that my administration has begun a successful transition to financial stability, greater public safety, and a surge in development that is transforming our city.

It is my firm belief that the financial integrity of any organization is the foundation upon which success is built. As a CPA and finance professional, getting our financial house in order was not only a personal priority for me, but imperative for our city to be able to prosper and flourish economically.

### Restructuring of our financial house



Let me highlight the following achievements that have saved the city millions of dollars:

- We submitted the first on-time budget to the City Council in 8 years.
- As a result of fiscal housekeeping and changing procedures and accountability, the city was able to save \$2 million.
- On March 26, 2015 we refinanced our Series 2007A bonds, saving the city \$602,441.55 in interest charges.
- We hired a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) – a position that had gone unfilled by a fulltime financial professional for more than 8 years. Consequently we were now able to reconcile the financial records for all grants.
- By conducting a clean-up of old capital ordinances, we found and reallocated \$653,000 in funds for road repairs.
- We renegotiated the Comcast Franchise Agreement, which had expired in 2010, bringing \$175,000 in added revenue to the city.
- We opened the Veterans Building and took the necessary steps to transfer ownership to the City of Plainfield – a partial payment on a huge debt of gratitude that we owe our veterans.
- Renegotiated ownership of Liberty Village after years of neglect from the previous owner, adding new amenities, improving living conditions for the residents and bringing added revenue to the city.
- We drafted a vacant properties ordinance, never on the books in Plainfield. It will require owners of vacant properties to register and maintain their properties.
- We settled ALL union Contracts through 2017. That's ALL 7 of our unions, an extremely important achievement; as we value the dedication of our employees and want them to feel appreciated and compensated for their hard work.
- Generated \$2 million in additional surplus over 2013.
- Improved fiscal management resulted in Moody's Investor Services changing the City's financial outlook to positive from negative.

## Public Safety and Quality of Life



I had made a pledge to provide a safe environment for all our citizens. As you all know, I made a promise that our police men and women would be fully engaged in problem areas. During my tenure, we deployed officers to conduct directed patrols in those areas, and throughout the City. As a result, we have already seen a reduction in 8 of 9 categories of criminal activity in Plainfield. In addition, SST Inc. National Gunfire Index published a report revealing a 39.8% reduction in gunfire in the City of Plainfield!

We will continue to improve public safety for all the residents of Plainfield through the following measures led by the Director of Public Affairs and Safety, Carl Riley:

- With Council's support, we instituted real fines for illegal alcohol sales and required extra security for bars with enforcement problems, ending the practice of sending Plainfield police officers and letting residents pay their bills.
- We held a summit on police and community relations, and as a result, this year we will implement the Police Chaplain Program, creating a partnership among law enforcement, clergy, and the community.
- Plainfield is leading the way in urban policing and crime reduction and we are making our city safe for all of our residents and businesses. At no cost to the City, we will be installing 30 high-definition cameras at various locations throughout the entire city.
- We will also outfit 20 patrol vehicles with GPS Systems with funding from a technology grant the Police Division received.
- Our public safety efforts will continue to be enhanced by my "Light up the City" initiative, where we identify and replace many of the broken lights across the City. We are also installing new lights to illuminate many of the dark areas throughout the City.

These systems will decrease our response time and will support officer safety. The end result will be a real time crime center for Plainfield which includes analytics, surveillance cameras, and sensor technology.

## Economic Development a key aspect in the transformation of our city



I am proud to share that this year; we received the distinct national recognition of being one of America's most exciting small cities, and one of New Jersey's most caring cities.

We are definitely creating a Plainfield that is rising to new heights:

- One year ago, we had NO direct trains to New York City. NJ Transit now offers a total of 16 direct trains for the Raritan Valley Line; we knew the one-seat service was vital if Plainfield was to attract new businesses and new residents. As a result, Plainfield homes have increased in value.
- We have revised our permitting and licensing processes to attract developers, resulting in construction and leasing in the downtown area, and on South Avenue.
- We held community hearings on the Muhlenberg Hospital site and completed a study that will help us take the critical first steps to redevelopment.
- Our unemployment rate has already shown vast improvement, dropping 4.5 percent since taking office.
- We have been developing workforce partnerships, conducted numerous small business workshops and developed a partnership with Google to get our Plainfield businesses online.

We will continue to work together towards creating One Plainfield – One Future for our great Queen City.



ONE PLAINFIELD ONE FUTURE  
MAYOR ADRIAN MAPP

**AND THE WINNER IS...**

**ONE OF THE PROUD WINNERS OF NJ  
FUTURE'S 2015 SMART GROWTH AWARDS  
AND HOME TO NEW JERSEY'S NEWEST  
TRANSIT VILLAGE.**

PLAINFIELD  
Newark/New York



## EXPERIENCE THE QUEEN CITY

Plainfield is being revitalized!

Spend a day in the Queen City and fall in love with our historic downtown, with its 19th century architecture, eclectic shops, and diverse restaurants. I am proud to announce that Plainfield is one of the winners of the 2015 NJ Future Smart Growth Award.

New Jersey Future's Smart Growth Awards honor projects, plans and initiatives in all parts of the state that demonstrate smart growth principles in action. The awards help to shine a spotlight on individuals, businesses or organizations with the vision to encourage smart-growth values and designs. This acknowledgement of the hard

work that the Mapp Administration has undergone since taking office gives further evidence of the City of Plainfield's transformation.



# THE GATEWAY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HELD THE 26TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S DINNER

The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce held the 26th Annual Mayor's Dinner on March 30, 2015. Our very own, Deputy City Administrator for Economic Development, Carlos Sanchez won the Economic Development Director of the Year Award for his efforts in the City of Plainfield!

# QUALITY OF LIFE

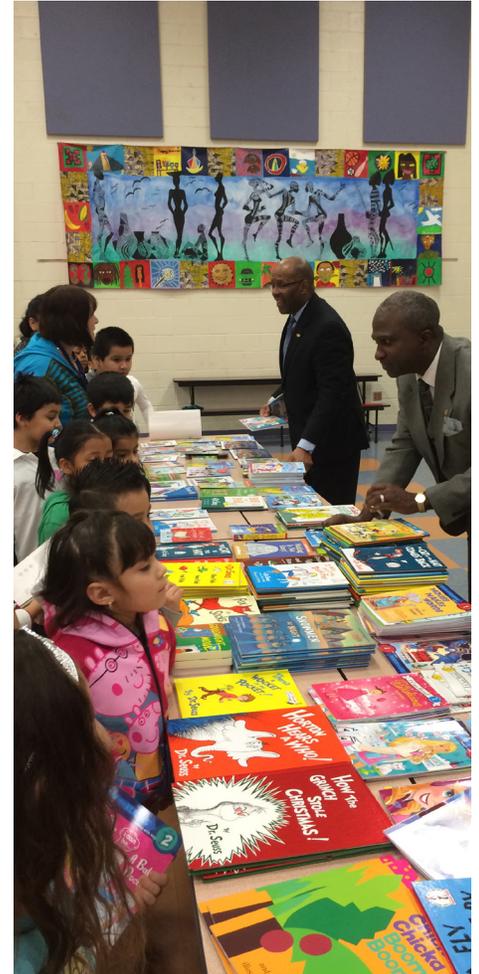
## HELPING PUT 100 PLAINFIELDERS BACK TO WORK



Given the current market and unemployment conditions, I knew our administrative team needed to foster hope in the community and within families by providing potential employment opportunities. My Chief of Staff, John Stewart, leads the Quality of Life initiatives, and was assigned the task of developing and leading an initiative to help put Plainfielders back to work.

I am proud to announce the team delivered! During the month of March, we received the results from the job fair we held in partnership with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) last summer. As a result of the partnership and job fair, 100 Plainfield residents were employed. That is 100 less families having to worry about putting food on the table and what tomorrow may bring.

Furthermore, the administration will be rolling out a job training and placement program in partnership with Edison Job Corps.



## CITY INITIATIVE - YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

Over 220 youth and young adults were hired for the Summer Youth and recreation programs.

# IMMIGRATION REFORM:

## ONE PLAINFIELD, ONE FUTURE

Immigration reform is of vital importance to the survival of this Nation as well as the City of Plainfield. As you know one of Plainfield's many strengths is the wide range of diversity of our citizens. It is important to note that over 40% of our population here in the City of Plainfield is Latino.



"THE DIVERSITY OF  
OUR CITY DEMANDS  
THAT WE DO ALL WE  
CAN TO BUILD  
UN PLAINFIELD,  
UN FUTURO --  
ONE PLAINFIELD,  
ONE FUTURE."

The lack of a cohesive national immigration policy has placed a great burden on state and local governments. Local government has a responsibility to its residents to provide services for all people regardless of Status. On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced an executive order on immigration. This executive order can have a profound impact on our citizen's right here at home. In our great City, my administration is making sure we play a critical role in facilitating participation and representation of all residents, delivering services in a culturally and linguistically competent manner, and making sure we develop partnerships to encourage immigrant integration. Regardless of recent court actions that have sought to derail the President's efforts on reform, we will remain steadfast.

I wanted to highlight a couple of actions; we have taken since the President's executive order. We moved forward with appointing members of the PACHA – the Plainfield Advisory Commission on Hispanic Affairs – the first appointments since 2010 – we will work with PACHA to assist them on issues around President Barack Obama's executive order on immigration.

The city is strongly in favor of moving aggressively to start the process of documenting all our citizens. On January

28, 2015, we held a seminar to discuss the profound impact of the President's Executive Order on Immigration. The presentation was led by attorney Patrick McGuinness. The discussion centered on work permit eligibility, and how it impacts parents of U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents, Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). Another important topic of discussion was the DREAMERS -Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). We will continue to publicly engage the citizens of Plainfield on this issue in the weeks and months ahead. On Monday, February 9, 2015, the Plainfield Council Meeting had standing room only as the Latino community came out to support driving privilege cards for undocumented state residents. The council resolution, which passed unanimously, is in support of Senate Bill S1696 and Assembly Bill A2135 proposing the issuance of driving privilege cards. This is a great opportunity and will afford residents with the means to commute to work, seek employment, and perform everyday tasks such as bringing their children to school. I am in full support of undocumented state residents having access to driving privilege cards. The diversity of our city demands that we do all we can to build UN PLAINFIELD, UN FUTURO -- One Plainfield, one future.

# THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: 5 YEARS LATER



The health and well-being of every Plainfield resident is important to me, and this includes access to healthcare. Our team's commitment to providing all Plainfield residents with access to healthcare was demonstrated during the last open enrollment period with the availability of a Plainfield navigator at the Plainfield City Hall Annex four days a week. The navigators helped residents through the application process and conducted healthcare education and awareness events. In the great City of Plainfield, since open enrollment closed last month, over 1,500 Plainfield residents have gained insurance through the marketplace.

## Economic Development

The Office of Economic Development led by Carlos N. Sanchez, provides technical assistance and resources to developers and business owners located or intending to locate in the City of Plainfield.

We are extremely committed to promoting economic growth in our city through various platforms such as workshops for local businesses, entrepreneurial programs and business incentives such as:

Google Get Your Business Online- which allows business owners to have a website presence free of charge for one year.

Plainfield City Loan Fund- provides business loans to start-ups or existing businesses in the City.

UEZ Sign and Facade program- provides up to \$25,000 in funding to assist businesses to improve their storefronts and beautification of their exterior location.

Additional targeted initiatives for 2015 include the "Property Tax Rewards" and the "Welcome to Plainfield" sign program. Both of these initiatives provide businesses and residents benefits that improve the quality of life in our City.



Mayor Mapp and Councilman Cory Storch participated in the ribbon cutting event for Los Antojitos Restaurant



Mayor Mapp performed a ribbon cutting ceremony at the grand opening of Un Nuevo Renacer Bakery.

# COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND A MORE BUSINESS FRIENDLY MODEL

During the month of March, we held a joint meeting of three Plainfield boards and one commission: Planning, Zoning, Historic Preservation and the Shade Tree Commission. We came together to discuss implementing procedural changes to be more business friendly. Important elements of a business friendly administration are improved processes, resources for developers, and the selection of organizations wanting to do business in Plainfield. As a result, a set of comprehensive development maps have been introduced to illustrate current development in the city and project status. The maps can be viewed on our website: [www.plainfieldnj.gov](http://www.plainfieldnj.gov).

Several new businesses have opened in our Downtown area! They are taking advantage of the programs and incentives we are offering; including the valuable technical assistance from our newly created and implemented Technical Review Committee (TRC). TRC consists of a group of professionals available to provide technical assistance to developers and business owners looking to invest in Plainfield.

# OUR PLAINFIELD



In 2014, the City of Plainfield saw a significant reduction in violent crime in comparison to 2013. That included 67 percent reduction in Homicides, 40 percent decrease gunfire incidents within the ShottSpotter monitored areas. Alongside that, the Police Division recovered 50 guns from the streets last year and saw a 48 percent reduction in aggravated assaults involving firearms. In addition, robbery, burglary and motor vehicle theft have all been reduced as well.

ROBBERY

19%

BURGLARY

16%

VEHICLE THEFT



# THE NEW PLAINFIELD

## THE RIGHT SMARTS

DU CRET SCHOOL OF ART  
FRENCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNION COUNTY COLLEGE  
MUHLENBURG NURSING SCHOOL

## THE RIGHT DEVELOPMENT

8 COMPLETED PROJECTS  
12 UNDER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS  
19 APPROVED NOT BUILT PROJECTS

## THE RIGHT ACCOLADES

2015 NJ SMART GROWTH AWARDS WINNER  
MAIN STREET NJ MEMBER  
TREE CITY USA WINNER 7 TIMES IN A ROW

## THE RIGHT LOCATION

NEW JERSEY'S NEWEST TRANSIT VILLAGE  
TWO TRANSIT VILLAGE DISTRICTS  
ONE HOUR FROM NY PENN STATION  
NJ TRANSIT ONE - SEAT RIDE  
CONVENIENT TO RT. 22, I-78, AND I-287

## THE RIGHT STATS

24% OF RESIDENTS USE MASS TRANSIT OR WALK  
2ND LARGEST TRANSIT USAGE ON TRAIN LINE  
100% RESIDENTIAL OCCUPIED\*  
50% RETAIL SPACE OCCUPIED\*  
100% OFFICE SPACE OCCUPIED\*  
58 NEW UNITS RESIDENTIAL\*  
13,980 SQFT RETAIL/COMMERCIAL RENTED\*

\*ALL STATS BASED OFF OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS ONLY

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