

PATERSON PERSEVERES

The Official Newsletter of Mayor Andre Sayegh

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2022

MAYOR'S WELCOME

Dear readers,

As Mayor of the historic City of Paterson, it has been a true pleasure to serve the community in which I am a proud lifelong resident. As I begin my second term as Mayor, I reflect on our collective achievements during my first term. The tenacity of the Silk City at one of the most unprecedented times in world health history - the COVID-19 pandemic - has propelled us forward.



This unforeseen crisis has clearly illustrated the strength of our city and how we have innovatively addressed the various realities that have developed as a result. Together we have effectively addressed issues locally and statewide, and as a result, we have received state, national, and international recognition and accolades. As we continue to press on to a future of more progress, I look forward to continuing great work collectively with stakeholders and residents alike!

Within this newsletter, there are several resources for residents and an overview of the work of my administration in collaboration with so many great partners on the local, state, and federal levels. I hope that you enjoy the first issue of my new official newsletter which highlights just how much Paterson has persevered!

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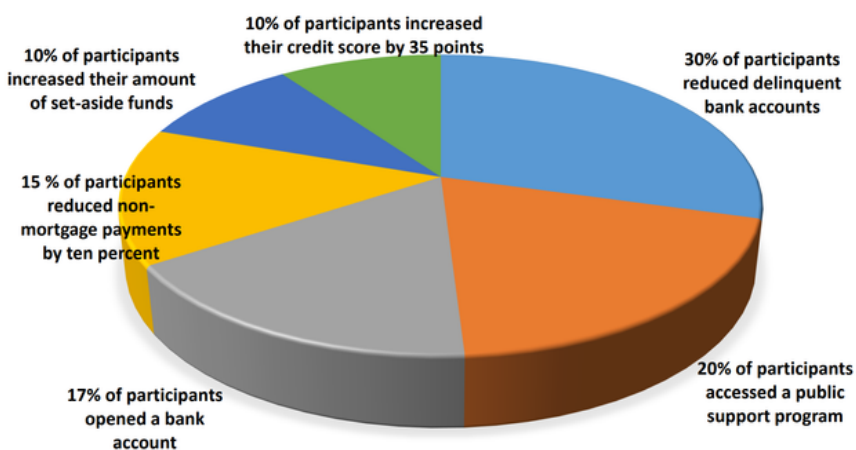
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Editor's Corner

RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER

The City of Paterson is the first municipality in the state of New Jersey to establish a Financial Empowerment Center (FEC). A partnership of United Way of Passaic County and the City of Paterson, the FEC has transformed the lives of over 400 residents.



To sign up to receive services from FEC, please visit:
<https://www.unitedwaypassaic.org/financial-empowerment-center>

CITY DASHBOARDS

Developed and maintained by the City of Paterson, the following dashboards provide residents with real data in real time.

COVID-19 Tracker for Paterson & New Jersey:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/17bead2ec1b44d338d5817c59e9d13cb>

City of Paterson Lead Safe Map:

<https://patersonnj.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3b4015946d9d466e922c0ce56ff22937>

City of Paterson Resurfaced Roads:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b90b7cdfc81c43ff8b8316620e3ccd10>

City of Paterson's Response to Paterson Plus Complaints:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/84ele8ce0b7d4dc69fbf9ab589dfbed6>

PATERSON WINS GLOBAL MAYORS CHALLENGE

**PATERSON
USA
WINNER**

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**

**MAYORS
CHALLENGE**



The City of Paterson is one of only 15 cities globally to win the 2021-2022 Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge. This innovative worldwide competition supports cities' most promising and ambitious ideas to address issues amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Paterson's Appropriate Medication-Assisted-Treatment, Anytime, Anywhere, also known as RealFix, was awarded \$1 million and technical assistance/coaching for three years. The goal of RealFix is to make Suboxone, a medication that can alleviate withdrawal symptoms, reduce cravings and protect against overdose, more accessible to those addicted to opioids.

The City expresses gratitude to the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation for providing support for the position of Chief Innovation Officer Edward Boze, who sparked this idea and will serve in an intricate role in the implementation of this program along with key partners, St. Joe's University Medical Center, Eva's Village, the Garden State Ambulatory, City Relief, King of Kings/City Impact and Hands of Hope, as well as various homeless outreach organizations.

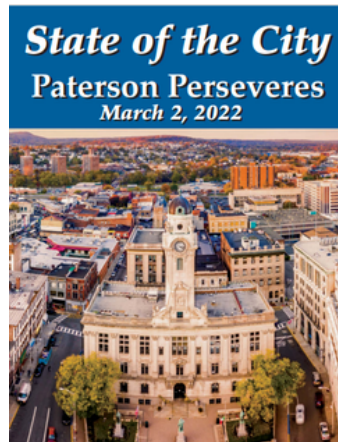
MAYOR SAYEGH'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

In March, Mayor Andre Sayegh delivered his State of the City Address in City Council Chambers. The Address highlights major accomplishments of the Administration, which include residential support, the coronavirus pandemic response, public safety, economic and community development (which includes over \$800 million of secured investments), environmental improvements and sustainability, parks and recreation rehabilitation, financial stability and public sector investments, and vehicle and facility investments.

To access the State of the City booklet which provides more insight on the successes of the City of Paterson during the Sayegh Administration visit:

https://www.patersonnj.gov/egov/documents/1647375714_00571.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2SDmLudwdeLWUn874MzBXHBpCDuWtizaPP91oh7xVv5limnGMUhvAlk

To view that recording of that State of the City Address visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJfpJ49O4ws>



MAYOR NAMED SUSTAINABLE JERSEY'S SUSTAINABILITY HERO

SUSTAINABILITY HERO
February 2022



André Sayegh
Mayor, City of Paterson, Passaic County

Mayor Sayegh was named Sustainable Jersey's Sustainability Hero for February 2022 in recognition of his many efforts to make Paterson a

greener, more environmentally-friendly city. To access the full announcement visit:

https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Media_Publications/Sustainable_Jersey_Heroes/2022/2022_February_Sustainability_Hero_final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR09Rkns7xstHwJGKk768MRzC9M5sdCFnluxtpsUb7Of0NTyYwXh7-cRds

PATERSON'S INVESTMENT IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE FLEET

Through innovative and sustainable planning, 35 Nissan Leafs were unveiled to join the City's fleet. Mayor Andre Sayegh along with Paterson Fire Chief Brian McDermott, Battalion Chief John Mauro, Chief of Fire Apparatus Antonio



Diaz, Economic Development Director Michael Powell, Tony Perez, Executive Director, Paterson Parking Authority, and Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey collectively announced this effort. These electric vehicles will be utilized by various City Departments including Health, Fire, Public Works, and Community Improvement as they travel to perform inspections and other city business. This \$800,000 investment in American-made cars is a step in the right direction of protecting the environment. The City also plans to install several electric charging stations throughout Paterson for the use of city workers, residents, and for the school district to charge electric school buses.

PATERSON ACHIEVES WHAT WORKS CITIES SILVER CERTIFICATION

As 1 of only 55 cities nationwide, Paterson received a What Works Cities Certification for its exceptional use of data to improve the lives of its residents. This national standard of excellence - a Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative led by Results for America - evaluates how well cities are managed by measuring how municipal leaders incorporate data and evidence in their decision-making process. An example of this includes the Paterson Coalition for Opioid Assessment and Response's (COAR) usage of City data to inform opioid response efforts. Mayor Andre Sayegh, joined by Paterson Chief Data Officer Harsha Mallajosyula and Lauren Su, Director of Certification at Results for America, along with members of COAR announced the City's certification and how Paterson looks forward to utilizing What Works Cities' tools and partners to further make City data actionable and responsive to supporting ground-level interventions.

PUBLIC SAFETY

HISTORICAL BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT OF BAIL REFORM LEGISLATION



As cities nationwide experience an uptick in violence it is essential that Paterson utilizes every tool in the toolbox to increase and improve public safety. Efforts to ensure this under the Sayegh Administration includes gun buy-back events, community policing efforts, and the push for public policy change. Thus, Mayor Sayegh fully supports A2426/S513. If enacted, the bill will amend the current bail reform law by granting a rebuttable presumption to keep individuals who have gun charges while in the commission of a crime incarcerated during the pre-trial period.

Earlier this year, Mayor Sayegh hosted a press conference in the City of Paterson to call for the swift passage of A2426/S512. This event garnered historical statewide bipartisan support from other urban municipal leaders including Mayor Ras J. Baraka (Newark), Mayor Ted Green (East Orange), Mayor J. Christian Bollwage (Elizabeth), Mayor Adrian O. Mapp (Plainfield), Mayor W. Reed Gusciora (Trenton) and Mayor Donald Shaw (Roselle).

Also in attendance were the bill sponsor and Paterson's own Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, Assemblyman Gary Schaer, Senator Bramnick, Regina Egea, President of the Garden State Initiative, and members of the NJ Sheriff's Association.

Additionally, Mayor Sayegh and Mayor Gusciora testified before the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee in support of the bill. Mayor Sayegh commends all of the bill sponsors for crafting this legislation at a time when gun violence has plagued the City of Paterson, as well as so many urban centers across the state and the nation. He would also like to thank his Director of Policy and Planning, Ishiya Hayes, for galvanizing support around this issue and providing policy analysis.



STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTMENTS



Governor Murphy hosted a press conference in Paterson earlier this year to announce the State's public safety investments via the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in gunshot detection technology and other police equipment to reduce gun violence. The Murphy Administration also announced the grant recipients of community-based violence intervention (CBVI) funding. At the event, Mayor Sayegh expressed his gratitude that the City of Paterson was one of many communities to receive these investments to curb gun violence, and thanked our federal and state representatives - who were also in attendance - for advocating for this much-needed funding to keep citizens safe. The Paterson Police Department and two local non-profits that work to combat violence in the Paterson area, Reimagining Justice, Inc. and the Juvenile Education and Awareness Project, were also awarded funding. The Paterson Police Department benefited from this investment receiving nearly \$9 million, while the latter two CBVI organizations collectively received nearly \$1 million. Additional speakers at this star-studded event also included Patersonians Congressman Bill Pascrell, Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, and Dr. Liza Chowdhury of Reimagining Justice.

PATERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT AUDIT

Mayor Andre Sayegh joined by Director of Public Safety Jerry Speziale, Corporation Counsel Aymen Aboushi, and Pastor John Givens on behalf of the Paterson United Pastors Council released an audit of the Paterson Police Department. This 87-page report is a key component in Paterson's Tools for Trust Program - established to improve relations between police and the community. The audit was conducted independently by the Police Executive Research Forum. The audit provides 93 recommendations to improve the Department, a third of which have already been implemented relative to use-of-force, written reports, and de-escalation training. This effort is an extension to the Tools for Trust, an initiative created by the City of Paterson in light of federal charges against several police officers. Together these efforts will create a level of transparency, and improve relations and interactions.

RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES

COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINE SCHEDULE

Now available to persons 5 years and older at

Paterson Division of Health's parking lot

176 Broadway, Paterson, NJ

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Call (973) 321-1227 for more information

PATERSON PLUS APP

The City of Paterson launched Paterson Plus, a mobile app for residents to send anonymous complaints to the city. These can include unfulfilled potholes, illegal dumping/public waste, loud noises, street light/street sign requests, and much more! Residents may also upload accompanying photos or videos to requests and will be notified of updates.



Paterson Plus

PATERSON, CITY OF INC

GET

City employees are trained to respond to complaints 24-hours a day. Residents can access the app on either the IOS or android software systems.

EXCLUDED NEW JERSEYANS WORKSHOP



The Excluded New Jerseyans Fund provided a one-time cash benefit to residents who did not receive federal stimulus checks and or COVID-19 pandemic-related unemployment assistance. In partnership with the non-profit organization, Make the Road, Mayor Sayegh hosted a workshop at Paterson City Hall to assist residents in enrolling in the program. Through this state fund families or individuals who made \$55,000 or less a year could qualify for \$4,000 or 2,000 respectively. Moreover, Senator Nellie Pou, who had been advocating for appropriations for excluded workers at the state level, joined Mayor Sayegh at this monumental event. Many individuals and families, including undocumented residents, benefited from this workshop.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As the most diverse municipality in the state of New Jersey, here in the city of Paterson we marvel at the opportunity to celebrate and stand beside our residents. Although our backgrounds may differ what holds us together is our passion for a city of great collective history, heritage, and pride!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In the City of Paterson, we recognize the importance of Black History Month. Starting on the first day of the month and led by the mistresses of ceremony, Councilwoman Ruby Cotton and Councilwoman Dr. Lilisa Mims, we raised the African American flag.

To continue the celebration, every day in February we honored a different Paterson-based African American hero. These included representatives of the 35th legislative district, Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly and Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter, Paterson's first African American woman Mayor Jane Williams-Warren, and the late Ed Cotton the City's first African American council member. Additionally, other honorees included George and Martha Jiggets of Jiggets Transportation - which has continued to operate for over 5 decades, Dr. James Pruden, Director of Telemedicine, EMS and Preparedness at St. Joe's University Medical Center, and many more!

STANDING UNITED WITH UKRAINE

When one group of Patersonians hurt, we all hurt. Recognizing this, Mayor Andre Sayegh along with Congressman Pascrell, and countless others raised the Ukrainian flag at half-staff for all of those who have fallen at the hands of the war. The City of Paterson proudly and boldly stands with all Ukrainians during this time and will continue to stand with them in this fight until the end of this war. We welcome refugees to the silk city and offer our full support!



CELEBRATION OF AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

In celebration of Autism Awareness Month, Mayor Sayegh, and Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer, hosted an Autism Awareness Walk and Autism Flag Raising. Principal of School 2, Felisa Van Liew, was honored at the ceremony for her unwavering advocacy for children on the spectrum and her leadership in the Paterson Public School system. Moreover, the City of Paterson values our youth and realizes that all have the power and ability to thrive with the right resources. We have recently opened two inclusive playgrounds for children on the spectrum - Costello and Roberto Clemente Park.





Paterson

Great Falls • Great Food • Great Future

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