

SPRING 2017

# PLAINFIELD

THEN  
& NOW





# CELEBRATING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

More work to be done.

Message from the Mayor

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Newsletter!

Spring represents a time of growth and rebirth and here in Plainfield over the past three years we have experienced both. We have much to give thanks for and a great deal for which to look forward. We are on an upward trajectory marked by significant redevelopment. In this edition of our newsletter I want you to join me as we take a look at the major accomplishments of the past three years. There is a stark contrast between the Plainfield we knew then and the Plainfield that exists today. We are truly a city reborn, springing forward, and on the move!

There is an old saying that reminds us that "Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it." My administration walked into City Hall in January of 2014 and was met with a slew of challenges. We realized that our first mandate was to change the way business was done to turn things around.

When I campaigned for this job, I promised the people of this great city that we would reduce crime, improve the quality of our roadways, increase programs for our young people and seniors, restart and revitalize development efforts in our City and be much better stewards and protectors of our finances. Through hard work, co-operation and steadfast vision, these areas have seen significant improvement.

Working hand in hand with the people of Plainfield and our police department, we have drastically reduced crime by instituting community policing and mentoring programs, we installed security cameras all around the city and have lit up previously dark spaces with the "Light up our City" program. We have partnered with neighboring organizations to harness resources to resurface and repave miles of roadway in Plainfield, and that work is still ongoing. We worked with our local business community and utilized community resources to provide programs and opportunities for our young people and seniors. Through prudent management of our fiscal resources, we paved the way for a significant increase in activity and sparked renewed interest in developers considering investing in Plainfield.

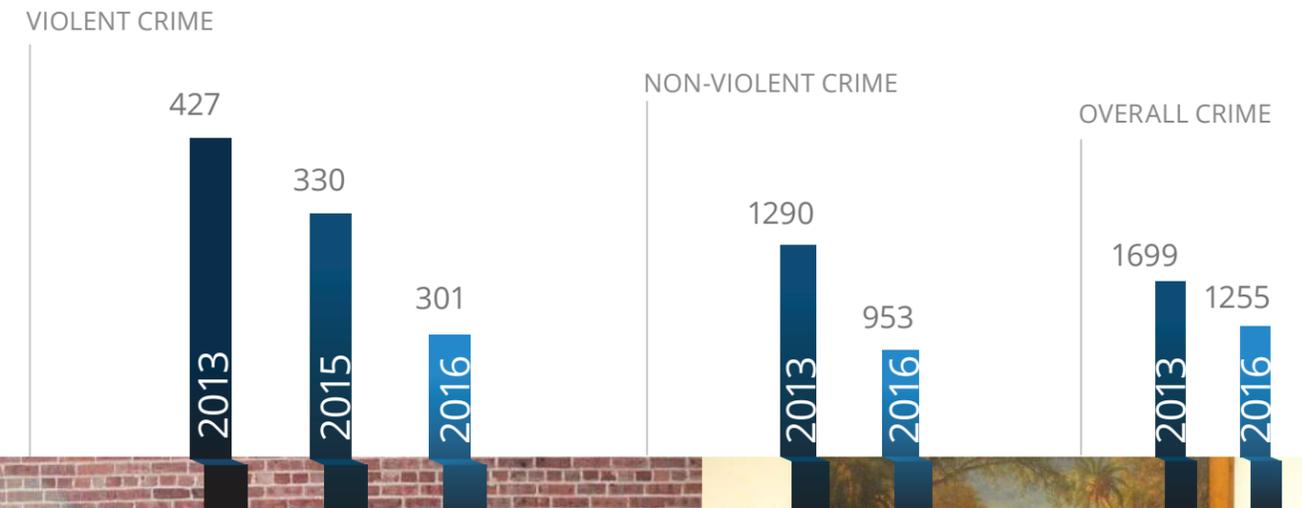
In this edition of our newsletter, I wanted to highlight some of the areas where we have made significant progress and had accomplishments of which we can all be proud. We worked through the mistakes of the past and aggressively pursued an improved way of doing business. Though we've gained much, we still have a long way to go, and there is more work to be done. We will continue to tackle our challenges with the same attitude of inclusiveness that has taken us through the last three years together. We may have walked before, but we're now off and running. We may have skimmed the treetops, but together we're going to soar. United we can do anything as we create "One Plainfield, One Future."

Please join me through these pages for a tour of our accomplishments.

*Adrian O. Mapp*  
 Mayor Adrian O. Mapp  
 City of Plainfield

# PUBLIC SAFETY

We have made significant progress in creating safer streets and neighborhoods here in our Plainfield community. The numbers speak for themselves:



# UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment has fallen from a high of almost 14% in 2013, to a low of 5.4% as of last November 2016.



As a result of the collective work we did to create opportunities for all our citizens - in particular our young people, we have seen a steady fall in our crime rate and a significant drop in our unemployment rate as well.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I believe that investing in the care and well-being of our residents is one of the most important tasks that I do as Mayor. We have dedicated time and resources to providing wholesome recreational activities for all our residents from youth to seniors and everyone in between. Even as we continue to grow through investment from developers

and businesses on the outside, we will ensure that we grow internally and provide our residents with the tools they need to be a part of that growth. To those that need our help the most, we will continue to provide the essential services necessary for all to survive and thrive.

Over 80  
programs for our community in  
**2016+**



Employed  
**180/20+**  
youths adults  
for the summer



Emergency food assistance for

**320+**  
families



**ONE PLAINFIELD.  
ONE FUTURE.**

Housing assistance for

**315+**  
families



**7** community based  
summer camps and  
Daycare Centers  
regularly scheduled  
visits to the pools



**Reconstructing**  
Seidler Field with new  
turf fields and lights



**Pre-Construction**  
started on the Madison Avenue  
Skate Park – getting kids off the street



**+1,392**

hours of field use for Youth  
and Adult sports leagues



**+118**

youth received free  
swim lessons at our  
city pools

When my administration took office in January of 2014, there were some areas of city government that were of deep concern. The state of our city's finances was one of the most challenging areas and we quickly realized that a fresh approach was needed. If we wanted to attract new development and investment in our City we would need to take decisive action to get our fiscal house in order. The City's ability to borrow funds was negatively impacted by a low credit rating and this affected the services we were able to provide to our residents.

We immediately streamlined the financial operations and implemented cost saving procedures across the board. Within a short time, we saw tangible results that sent a message to developers and investors that Plainfield was serious and ready to do business.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Plainfield has seen a rebirth of investment and development activity since I took office in 2014. This is the result of the hard work my administration has done to cultivate the right environment for development to take root. We worked steadfastly to lower our crime rate, created more training and job opportunities for our residents and stabilized our financial operations city-wide. The numbers don't lie and they tell the story of where the City of Plainfield is, and where it is going in terms of our Economic Development efforts. The future is now; and Plainfield is open and ready to do business!



## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE



	<b>60</b> potential projects in various stages
	<b>\$250M</b> investment in the City
	<b>1,200</b> new residential state of the art apartments
	<b>350,000</b> square feet of new retail, and commercial space
	<b>\$10.3M</b> in taxes from the South Avenue Gateway Project (compared to \$3.5M before redevelopment)
	<b>\$4M</b> dollars forecasted with The Muse at Grant & 2nd Avenue which was a blighted property (compared to \$0)

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FPO

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## Mayor's Road Improvement Program

You spoke and we listened. We knew that we had to make improving our infrastructure and repaving our Plainfield streets a priority for our administration. We actively sought partnership with community co-ops to defray our costs and from 2014 to 2016 our Department of Public Works repaved over 17 miles of roadway.

The work continues in 2017 and we have plans to re-pave almost 10 miles of roadway this year. The Mapp administration continues to be focused on improving every facet of life for our residents here in Plainfield.

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



GET DAILY UPDATES ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE CITY OF PLAINFIELD

GET BREAKING NEWS  
Sign Up for the Mayors Weekly Newsletter!  
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