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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Small Announces Schedule for Completion of Atlantic Avenue Paving, Other Improvements

Atlantic City, N.J. (March 26, 2025) – City of Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small, Sr. announced during a news conference today at City Hall that, with the assistance of Congressman Jeff Van Drew, the federal government has released the final \$10.3M in RAISE Grant funding needed to proceed with the Atlantic Avenue Safety Improvement Project, which includes the paving of Atlantic Avenue through the heart of the City. The project encompasses the paving of Atlantic Avenue, adding synchronized traffic lights at intersections, adding LED street lighting and wayfinding signs, improving portions of curbing and sidewalks, and handicapped access ramps among other improvements from Tennessee to Albany Avenues. Now that the necessary funding has been released, the City needs authorization to bid from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). Once NJDOT gives authorization, the City’s intention is to advertise the project for bid as soon as possible. Bids are anticipated to be received and awarded by City Council this May. Then, barring any major setbacks, the Atlantic Avenue paving portion of the project would start and be completed before the end of this summer.

“This is a major victory for the residents, visitors and future developers in the Great City of Atlantic City. People have been talking about the paving of Atlantic Avenue long before I became Mayor, and I’m just happy this is getting done under my watch,” said Mayor Small. “We thank Congressman Jeff Van Drew for his continued support and efforts to move this project along, Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, former New Jersey Department of Transportation commissioner, who has been a champion for this project since day one, and our grant consultant Jim Rutala, who continues to get Atlantic City the necessary funding for major projects like this. We plan on

incorporating an aggressive construction schedule to get Atlantic Avenue paving and improvements done as quickly and as safely as possible.”

Data shows that Atlantic Avenue is one of the most dangerous roads in Southern New Jersey. The purpose of the Atlantic Avenue Safety Improvement Project is to improve safety for Atlantic City residents and visitors. This project also includes synchronizing the traffic signals on Pacific Avenue from Maine to Albany Avenues. The total cost for the Atlantic and Pacific Avenue improvements is \$24.8M. The City has received a combination of Federal and State funding for this project. The first phase of the project was completed at the end of 2023. It encompassed the paving, restriping, lighting replacement, and traffic signal synchronization from Maine to Tennessee Avenues. It also included the installation of fiber and conduit from Tennessee to Albany Avenues. The paving improvements from Tennessee to Albany Avenues were scheduled to be completed last fall but were held up in litigation.

During today’s news conference, Mayor Small shared a statement directly from Congressman Van Drew, which can be found below:

I’m sorry I couldn’t be with you in person today, but I wanted to take a moment to celebrate this exciting announcement with all of you. The authorization of the \$10.3 million RAISE grant for the Atlantic Avenue Corridor Revitalization and Safety Project is a huge step forward for Atlantic City and all of South Jersey.

This grant will help fund crucial improvements to Atlantic Avenue, including repaving the roadway, better synchronization of streetlights, and enhanced safety measures.

This project is the result of years of hard work, and I’m proud to see it moving forward. It will not only improve safety for residents and visitors alike, but it will also have a significant impact on the economic development of Atlantic City. By revitalizing the businesses and infrastructure along this corridor, we’re helping to strengthen the very heart of our community.

I’m grateful to have worked with local leaders and the Trump administration to ensure this project was fast-tracked and approved. Together, we are working toward a stronger, safer, and more prosperous South Jersey, and this grant is just one step toward that brighter future.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to the growth of Atlantic City and beyond.

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