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It's a Great Day in the City of Atlantic City ■ FEBRUARY 2024

Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

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NO STOPPIN' US NOW

FROM THE MAYOR

February 8, 2024

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

Sing it with me -- *Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now, We're on the Move!* That was the theme of my 2024 'State of the City' address, which was not only full of major news and announcements, but started with a memorable duet with the very talented Darchele Todd (pictured to the right) to set the tone for the day.

The Atlantic City Aquarium has a reopening date. Meetings on a redevelopment agreement for Bader Field are going well. I got to introduce the world to the new-look Pop Lloyd Stadium and City Hall Courtyard. Development is up while taxes are down in Atlantic City. It was an epic afternoon full of positivity and progress, but I do feel the need to speak a bit more now on one particular section of my address: Clean, Safe and Smart.

I am truly heartbroken by the violence we've seen in Atlantic City to kick off 2024. I called a news conference several weeks into the year to reassure everyone that these are isolated incidents and not the norm, and that the Small administration and Atlantic City Police Department will not tolerate this. And I spent a good amount of time during my 'State of the City' presentation going over our clean, safe and smart efforts. The Small administration will stop at nothing to protect Atlantic City and its residents.

I would like to thank Scott Cronick and the Atlantic City Metropolitan Business and Citizens Association for organizing this event, my IT Director Patrick Quinlan and Public Information Officer Andrew Kramer for spending countless hours perfecting my presentation, and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for being such gracious hosts.

We have plenty more coverage of my 'State of the City' in this newsletter, as well as on the city's website. I suggest you go there and check out the full recap, because It's a Great Day in the City of Atlantic City, and we demonstrated why during my address!

- Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

***Call 973-953-7795 to book Darchele at your event!**

'STATE OF THE CITY' ADDRESS

Delivered February 2, 2024 during the MBCA Winter Luncheon at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City

Below you will find some highlights of the presentation, head to acnj.gov for complete coverage and video

Closed since 2020, the Atlantic City Aquarium will reopen on July 1st! Interior renovations are complete, and Mayor Small secured the money for exterior renovations through American Rescue Plan funding. Above is a rendering of the new-look outside.

DEVELOPMENT UP, TAXES DOWN

That was a central theme of the presentation, as Mayor Small announced another expected tax decrease in Atlantic City for 2024, while showcasing some new development projects happening soon. These include K. Hovnanian Homes' Terraces at Absecon Inlet and The James Hotel on the Boardwalk in the Orange Loop section, which will be the new home to Kelsey's on the first floor, relocating the popular restaurant from Pacific Avenue to the Boardwalk.

Construction begins in April on two major projects, including the new Pop Lloyd Stadium, featuring artificial blue turf, new dugouts, locker rooms, restrooms and fences with a scoreboard attached, and will have a multipurpose field for various sports. The other project is the new City Hall Courtyard, named Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver Plaza, featuring benches, trees and more.

"Atlantic City is clean. Atlantic City is safe," Mayor Small assured the 800 attendees during his address. The Atlantic City Police Department has already begun intensifying police presence in areas affected by violent crimes to begin 2024. Mayor Small also announced ten officers hired through a $3.75M C.O.P.S Hiring Grant will be dedicated to Atlantic City schools through an ACBOE partnership.

An additional ten officers hired through the grant will be dedicated to Pacific and Atlantic Avenue patrols. The ten officers in the schools will move to Atlantic and Pacific Avenue patrol during the Summer when school is out of session. The Police Department also plans to reestablish the ACPD Motorcycle Unit this year.

What's Coming Up

Public Information Center

The Atlantic City Engineering Office will host a Public Information Center on Tuesday, February 13th at the ACCC Worthington Campus (1535 Bacharach Boulevard) between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm detailing three upcoming road projects: Atlantic Avenue Safety Improvements (Road Diet), Baltic Avenue Improvements, and Pacific Avenue Signal Optimization. Residents and local businesses can ask questions and learn more about these road projects from the experts.

Utility Assistance Day

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, in partnership with the city and New Jersey DCA, is holding a Community Utility Assistance Day on February 21st at All Wars Memorial Building. Learn more about assistance programs to help you with your utility cost and get connected with free utility grant programs.

Financial Literacy Course

Join City of Atlantic City Multicultural Services for the first class of a free Financial Literacy Course on February 22nd at Carnegie Library to learn how to budget and improve your personal finances. Register online or by calling 609-347-6492.

Small Business Academy

Mayor Small's 'Small Business Academy" – free to Atlantic City residents – returns in March. Interested participants are required to attend an information session on February 27th from 6:00-8:00 pm on the 2nd floor of Carnegie Library.

Congratulations to Licensing & Inspections Director Dale Finch, who was named Mayor Small's Director of the Year for 2023. Director Finch was formally announced the winner during the 'State of the City' address.

Congratulations are also in store for ACPD officer Michael Braxton and the city's Assistant Public Information Officer Alexxus Young, both named to Front Runner New Jersey's 30 Under 40 Top Young African American Leaders of South Jersey list.

And congratulations to Siani Alicea and New City Fellowship Church - representing Atlantic City's 3rd Ward - winners of the 2023 Golden Broom Award on behalf of the Department of Public Works for their neighborhood cleanup efforts.

City News & Notes

Tax Office

First quarter taxes for Atlantic City residents were due February 1st. The grace period ends February 12th. Residential and visitor parking permits are now available for pickup in the Tax Office (Room 125) at City Hall. Questions can be directed to 609-347-5630.

Municipal Court

Atlantic City (and Pleasantville) residents can make in-person payments again at the Atlantic City Joint Municipal Court at the Public Safety Buildings. The Municipal Courts merged on January 1st. The information window in Atlantic City had been closed for several weeks for renovations, which are now complete.

CitiStat

Moving forward, all CitiStat meetings at Stockton University, which give residents the chance to address quality of life issues with Atlantic City department directors, will be held once a month on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm. The schedule can be found on the city website calendar.

CDBG

Persons or organizations wishing to apply for CDBG funding must fill out an application (available at acnj.gov along with more information) and return it no later than February 28th via email or at City Hall. First-time applicants had the chance to get questions answered during a February 1st Public Hearing at Council Chambers

In an effort to bring the community together to stand up against violence, several hundred individuals took part in the Atlantic City Peace Walk, along Atlantic Avenue from O'Donnell Park to City Hall, organized by One Neighborhood Evolution, in partnership with the Atlantic City Youth Services and Recreation divisions, and other local organizations and groups. This event had been scheduled before the violent start to 2024 as a proactive approach to reduce violence.

"We're looking for everyone in the community to join us, and then stay a part of our efforts," said One Neighborhood Evolution Director Floyd Tally. "The tools are in place for us to succeed with our mission, we just need to work better and smarter together."

Mayor Small and Chief Sarkos participated in the walk, along with other members of the ACPD and Atlantic City Fire Department, as well as City Councilmembers and other city and county leaders.

On MLK Day, city leaders and the Atlantic City community walked together from the MLK School Complex to the Civil Rights Garden to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King. The MLK Walk concluded with a ceremony and a special surprise from Mayor Small, who announced he has chosen the NAACP Atlantic City Branch Youth Council to receive a $10,000 donation from the New Jersey Community Capital, who donates to a local group each year in the name of Dr. King.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

To kick off Black History Month, the city held a first-of-its-kind flag raising ceremony at City Hall, organized by the Mayor's Office of Special Events, who has an entire list of activity planned for staff throughout February, including Black History attire days and employee highlight events. You can also check out a Black History Month display in the lobby all month long. While you're there, Atlantic City Youth Services set up a Historically Black Colleges and Universities showcase in the lobby, where you can learn about HBCU origins and culture. Registration is open for a FREE TRIP organized by Atlantic City Multicultural Services to the National Museum of African American History & Culture (call 609-347-6492 if interested), while the Atlantic City Library celebrates Black History Month with new additions like a banner hanging outside the building and photo and poster displays inside.

The City of Atlantic City experienced its first snow accumulation in two years during a January 19th storm, and the city didn't miss a beat! The Department of Public Works had the roads and sidewalks treated well ahead of the snowfall, and those same roads and sidewalks, along with Boardwalk, were quickly and efficiently cleared. The Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management and Public Information Office teamed up to deliver residents all the latest information on potentially dangerous conditions in a timely manner through social media and AC Alerts.

As part of the division's health and wellness initiative, Atlantic City Senior Services has been hosting weekly Chair Yoga and Meditation classes at various senior buildings throughout the city as well as at the PAL Building, in addition to other events like Paint & Sip and candle making. Head to the acnj.gov calendar to get more details on activities open to ALL Atlantic City residents 55+ this month, including:

Fun and Fitness Classes 'Motown Style'
(Tuesday, February 20th and 27th at 5:00 pm.)

Senior Bingo
(Tuesday, February 20th at 1:00 pm.)

Chair Yoga & Sound Therapy Meditation
(Wednesday, February 21st and 28th at 3:00 pm.)

The ACPD's most recent Coffee with a Cop event took place at the Warwick Condominiums. Residents had the chance to hear from Chief Sarkos and Mayor Small, then speak with ACPD officers on a more personal level. The residents gave excellent feedback and we're already looking forward to our next Coffee with a Cop event!

Can We Say Great Day?!

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