Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore

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OPEN FOR BUSINESS

FROM THE MAYOR

June 2, 2023

Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day Weekend, and took the time to honor and remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. The summer season has arrived in the Great City of Atlantic City, and boy did we get started on the right foot. I once again participated in the annual "Opening of the Sea" ceremony outside Resorts Hotel Casino, and got some help this year from actor Kelsey Grammer. He has been a big supporter of Atlantic City, and it was a special moment getting to surprise him with a key to the city. We also had our first beach concert weekend of the season. The Adjacent Festival brought tens of thousands of visitors to Atlantic City and went off without a hitch, a true testament to our First Responders and the job they do. They are the best in the world. If Memorial Day Weekend was any indication of what to expect in Atlantic City this summer, trust me, we're in store for an epic season!

Make sure to get those applications in right now if you are eligible for the "Mayor Marty Small, Sr. Scholarship" and haven't done so already. That goes for current Atlantic City High School seniors who live in the city and students currently in college from Atlantic City. I say it over and over again, taking care of our youth is a priority of my administration. It is extremely important to provide our youth with the necessary resources to allow them to succeed. This scholarship allows us to invest in our children, and have those same children get educated and return to the City of Atlantic City to better themselves. Any parent that has had to put their kids through college will wish they had this opportunity afforded to them. More details on the scholarship and requirements can be found in this newsletter.

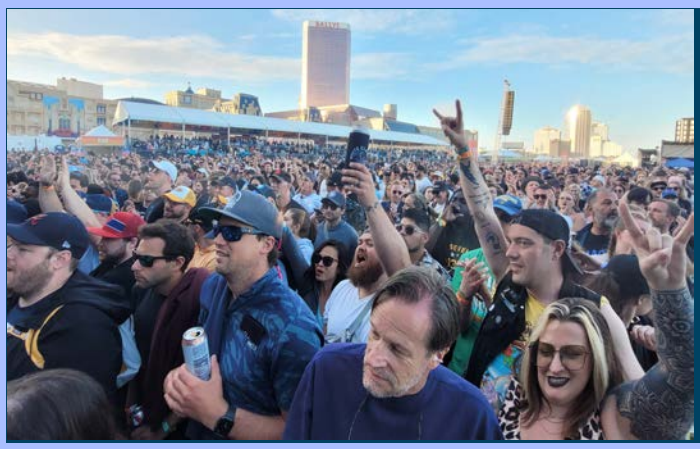
I recently had the honor to represent my favorite city, Atlantic City, during the 3rd annual National Convening of Black Mayors held in my second favorite city, Philadelphia. This was a tremendous networking opportunity. I learned a lot during this two-day event. I also had the chance to share some success stories from Atlantic City with my colleagues. Everyone seemed impressed by all that we've been accomplishing, and as you know, we're just getting started.

Thanks for reading our newsletter, and remember, It's a Great Day Here in the City of Atlantic City!

- Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

WE LIVE, WE LIT, WE OUTSIDE

The summer season kicked off in Atlantic City with the annual “Opening of the Sea” ceremony. Mayor Small, Atlantic City Police Chief James Sarkos, Atlantic City Fire Chief Scott Evans and Atlantic City Beach Patrol Chief Steve Downey all welcomed visitors to the city for the summer. Mayor Small then surprised actor Kelsey Grammer, who was on hand to participate in the ceremony, with a key to the city. The ceremony concluded with Mayor Small officially unlocking the ocean for the season, then dropping a memorial wreath in the water with the help of the ACBP.



Blink 182, Paramore, Jimmy Eat World and many more artists rocked Atlantic City during the first ever Adjacent Festival over Memorial Day Weekend. More than 30,000 people attended during the two-day event. First Responders reported no major issues throughout the weekend. The City of Atlantic City wants to thank Police, Fire, Beach Patrol, Public Works and all public safety personnel who worked all throughout the event to ensure everyone's safety. This includes tabletop exercises and other meetings leading up to the show. You're all rock stars! Next up on the beach, the return of the TidalWave Music Festival in August.

The following Atlantic City beaches are open for the season and will be guarded daily from 10am to 6pm: Caspian Ave, New Hampshire Ave, Connecticut Ave, States Ave, Virginia Ave, No. Carolina Ave, So. Carolina Ave, Kentucky Ave, MLK Blvd, Ohio Ave, Michigan Ave, Missouri Ave, Mississippi Ave, Texas Ave, Iowa Ave, Brighton Ave, Chelsea Ave, Albany Ave, Dover Ave, Bartram Ave, Montgomery Ave. The ACBP asks you swim at guarded beaches only. All beaches will be fully operational by June 24th.

Want to join the ACBP? Open tryouts are June 10th. Head to acnj.gov to see all requirements , get more information and for an application.

The City of Atlantic City, in partnership with CRDA, will be hosting the 2023 Atlantic City Free Concert Series at Gardner’s Basin. We are seeking local merchants to vend at all three concerts. The dates are Saturday June 24th, July 29th, and August 26th (rain dates are the Sunday after each date). Interested vendors should contact Yvonne with the City’s Mercantile License department at 609-347-5315 to request and submit an application. All applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5th.

The Atlantic City community came together twice to pay their respects for our fallen heroes. Two Memorial Day Observances were held in the city, one at Jackson Ave and the Boardwalk, and the other one at Brown's Memorial Park.

Since it was announced in March, the first ever North to Shore Festival, spanning three New Jersey city's, has doubled in size. It all begins in Atlantic City, from June 4th-11th. Atlantic City's rich history of arts and entertainment, and the city's current cultural scene will be on full display throughout the week. The full list of events can be found at northtoshore.com

Historic Scholarship Announcement

During a news conference held outside Atlantic City High School, Mayor Small revealed the details of the unprecedented "Mayor Marty Small, Sr. Scholarship" that will initially be awarded to 100 Atlantic City residents. The first 50 scholarships of $10,000 each ($5,000 per semester) will go to current Atlantic City High School seniors who live in Atlantic City. An additional 50 scholarships of $10,000 each ($5,000 per semester) will be awarded to incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors currently in college who graduated from Atlantic City High School and reside in Atlantic City. All applicants must fill out and submit an application, a one-page resume, a one-page essay explaining how they will contribute to bettering Atlantic City and obtain two letters of recommendation. Current seniors applying must have an acceptance letter from an accredited higher educational institution. THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JUNE 5TH.

The application can be found at acnj.gov. Applications, along with all required material, can be submitted via email at greatday@acnj.gov, mailed to the Mayor's Office at 1301 Bacharach Blvd., Suite 706, Atlantic City, N.J. 08401, or dropped off in person at the Mayor's Office on the 7th floor of City Hall.

This scholarship is a $3-million commitment over the next three years. The money comes from the Addressing Educational Disparity category of American Rescue Plan funds Atlantic City has received. The city received $33-million in ARP money, half used last year, and half for this year.

Lets Keep Our Community Clean!

The Department of Public Works "Project Community" cleanup initiative returns for the summer on June 5th. The goal is to clean up Atlantic City neighborhoods, and keep them clean by promoting personal responsibilities through education and community involvement. Members of the community are encouraged to join our Public Works crews to collect trash. "Project Community" begins in the 1st Ward on June 5th, then will be in the 2nd Ward on June 6th, 3rd Ward on June 7th, 4th Ward on June 12th, 5th Ward on June 13th, and the 6th Ward on June 14th. Crews will be back in each Ward every two weeks. Call the Department of Public Works at 609-347-5700 with questions.

Atlantic City hosted a Community Walk to, as City Council Vice President Kaleem Shabazz put it, "build, establish and expand relationships between the community and law enforcement." New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin was a participant as well.

It wasn't just a GREAT Day, but it was also a GOOD Day as Mayor Small helped cut the ribbon at Good Dog Bar, located at 3426 Atlantic Ave.

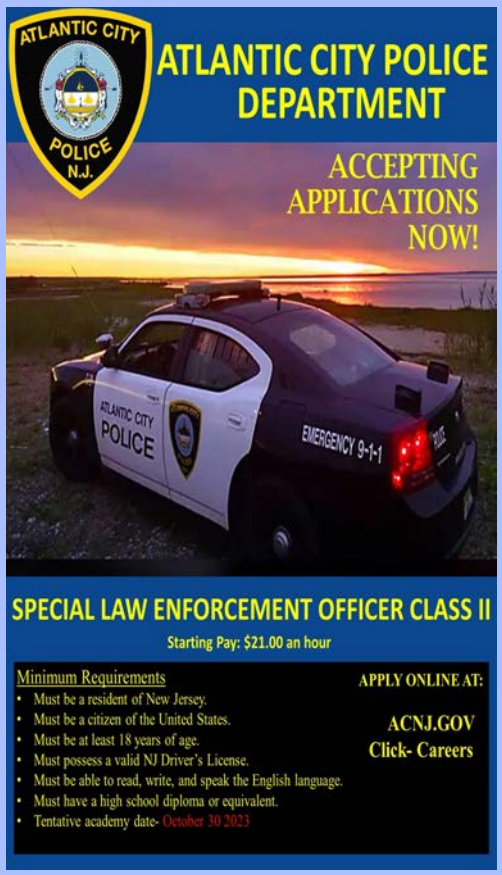
Welcome to Atlantic City!

The City of Atlantic City will receive two Food Security Planning Grants from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) to help address the city's food desert issue. A $125,000 grant will be used to pay a portion of the costs associated with planning the development of the Midtown Co-op Market, located at 7 S. Carolina Avenue. An $89,000 grant will help plan the development of a Food Pantry located at the Ginsburg Bakery site at 300 N. Tennessee Avenue. The NJEDA grant requires the property owner to support the application.

Philadelphia Eagles' Star Donates K-9 to ACPD

Philadelphia Eagles Pro Bowl Defensive Tackle Fletcher Cox was recognized at a press conference by Mayor Small and Chief Sarkos for his donation to the ACPD. K-9 Narco, a two-year-old Belgian Malinois, was purchased from funds that were generously donated by Cox to the Atlantic City Police Department. Narco is trained in patrol and narcotics detection. Narco and his partner, Officer Adrian Nunez-Santos, graduated from K-9 Patrol Scent Class #12 earlier this year after completing an intensive 23-week K-9 training program at the John "Sonny" Burke Canine Training Center. Following the news conference, Mayor Small declared “Fletcher Cox Day” in Atlantic City and delivered a Proclamation.

With the safety of Atlantic City residents and visitors in mind, the ACPD is cracking down on speeding and double parking throughout the city by increasing the enforcement of violations. Speeding is illegal, and it endangers you, your loved ones, and even strangers. Double parking and obstructing the flow of traffic is a violation of the State of New Jersey traffic laws.



The Atlantic City Police Department has installed a U.S. Flag Retirement Drop Box in the lobby of the Public Safety Building, located at 2715 Atlantic Avenue, for individuals who need to dispose of an old flag. Do not throw away worn out, torn and tattered flags. Instead, drop them off in the secure drop box, and police will make sure all flags collected are properly disposed. The Atlantic City Police Foundation purchased the flag box. Mayor Small and Chief Sarkos held a dedication ceremony for the newly installed box, in partnership with Patricia Tatum of the American Legion. The ACPD and American Legion are also working together for the inaugural Flag Disposal Ceremony that will happen on June 14th (Flag Day) at Bader Field.

Excellence in Policing

Congratulations to Sergeant Brian Shapiro and the Atlantic City Police Department who received a 2023 Excellence in Policing Award from Attorney General Platkin. The award for Outstanding Community Partnership honors a county prosecutor's office or police department that has implemented or strengthened a community partnership or collaboration with community stakeholders to advance public safety. Sergeant Shapiro recognized that there were vulnerable populations in Atlantic City who were in need of various health services, and he saw that there was a lack of coordination between different organizations that were trying to help. To address this issue, Sergeant Shapiro took the lead in creating a weekly meeting where representatives from the police department, casinos, businesses, courts, and other law enforcement agencies could come together and share information about the various services that were available to at-risk populations.

The city and ACPD would like to thank the residents of Ocean Club who donated a substation in their building for our officers. We appreciate the gracious gesture!

Atlantic City Recreation has introduced the 18+ Adult Softball League, with games played at Surf Stadium Wednesday and Thursday evenings. All are encouraged to attend and show their support!

And back by popular demand, NFL FLAG Football has returned for a second year for our Atlantic City Youth. The kids play Monday and Tuesday evenings at Dolphins Field.

The Atlantic City Youth Services Division has partnered with youth education program "A Leadership Journey" to send five high school students who live in Atlantic City on an all expenses paid, two-week trip to South Africa. ACYS Director Christina Noble and ACYS Specialist Elizabeth Trigg are accompanying the students on the June 2-18 trip.

"It's a really culturally diverse trip and I know they're going to grow so much from this," says Noble. "Learning things through cultural experiences is so meaningful, it's going to open lots of doors, and this exploration is going to lead to self-exploration and jump start their passions as they enter their adult lives. This is going to be a fun trip, but also an educational one."

To be selected, the students had to submit an essay explaining why they should be chosen. Upon their return, they will deliver a presentation about their experience.

ACYS Spring programming, which included the Pathfinder Nature Club and the completion of Atlantic City's first ESports season, has wrapped up for the season. We now look ahead to the summer months and the debut of "Great Day" Summer Camp!

It was a successful two days of health screenings and checks, with some Zumba, BINGO and other fun mixed in as City of Atlantic City Senior Services worked with other local organizations to host the Senior Health Symposium at All Wars Memorial Building.

The City is partnering with the Atlantic City Free Public Library, and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs on Collaboration AC – a new database designed to help address the need for a community resource directory. You can check it out at collaborationac.com

Just in time for Mother's Day, the Mayor's Office of Special Events held the Spring Fling at the City Hall Courtyard, with shopping, food, music and more!

And save the date now for these June ceremonies in the City Hall Courtyard:

June 15 @ 3 p.m.
Pride Flag Raising

June 16 @ 12:30 p.m.
Juneteenth Flag Raising

*There is also a Juneteenth March June 17th starting a Pop Lloyd at 1 p.m.

Can We Say Great Day?!

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