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CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Money Raised for Atlantic City Charity During Mayor Small's 2 Inaugural Gala's Surpasses \$1M

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (September 16, 2026) – The total amount raised through Mayor Marty Small, Sr.'s two Inaugural Galas has now surpassed \$1 Million in support of Atlantic City nonprofit and community organizations. Mayor Small announced today that his 2026 *The Future is Ours* Inaugural Gala raised more than \$459,000 for ten local charities. The announcement was made at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City, where this year's gala was held, as Mayor Small presented representatives of each organization with their checks. Mayor Small's first Inaugural Gala, held in 2022, raised more than \$611,000.

"I set the bar extremely high for this year's gala, and while we did not reach our ambitious goal, I am incredibly proud that we were still able to make a significant impact for these wonderful Atlantic City organizations," said Mayor Small. "As mayor, it is my responsibility to find ways to make a positive difference in our community and raising more than \$1 Million is something that will make a meaningful difference. I sincerely thank everyone who played a role in making this year's gala a success by attending, organizing, promoting or donating to the cause."

All proceeds from the 2026 gala, after event expenses, were distributed directly to the nonprofit and community organizations. The recipients represent organizations supporting youth, seniors, veterans, the arts and other important community initiatives. The organizations receiving funds and their respective amounts are:

- Atlantic City Police Athletic League (main beneficiary) — \$56,000
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. — \$35,000
- Atlantic City Senior Citizens — \$35,000
- The HOPE Foundation — \$35,000
- Create 48 — \$30,000
- AC Elite Football — \$30,000
- The Omega by the Sea Foundation — \$30,000
- Saracini-O'Neill Foundation — \$25,000
- Atlantic City's Bangladesh Community — \$25,000
- Kenneth B. Hawkins American Legion Post 61 — \$15,000

Mayor Small's 2026 Inaugural Gala was held on May 30, 2026. Inspired by the Mayor's 2026 State of the City Address, this year's theme, *Faith. Resilience. Redemption: The Future is Ours*, reflected Atlantic City's continued progress and the community's focus on building a stronger future.

The gala was a collaboration between the City of Atlantic City, the Mayor's Inaugural Gala Committee and planning partner Masterpiece Advertising. The event continues Mayor Small's tradition of using his Inaugural Gala as an opportunity not only to celebrate, but also to give back to the local organizations working every day to make a difference in the lives of Atlantic City residents. During the check presentation ceremony, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City President and CEO Geroge Goldhoff praised Mayor Small's commitment to support the Atlantic City community.

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