

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL

(OFFICIAL)

ELIZABETH, N.J.

Saturday
January 1, 2011
12:00 noon

The organization meeting of the City Council for the Year 2011 was held this afternoon in the City Council Chambers, City Hall.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor J. Christian Bolwage; City Attorney William R. Holzapfel, Esq.; Union County Assemblywoman Annette Quijano; Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada, and Rev. Larry E. Dixon, Greater Mt. Teman Church
City Clerk, Yolanda M. Roberts, called the meeting to order and announced notice of this Organization Meeting was mailed or delivered to the Star Ledger, Homes News Tribune, and Cablevision of Elizabeth, and posted and filed in the City Clerks Office in compliance with the terms of the Open Public Meetings Law, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, on December 28, 2010.

Reverend Larry E. Dixon, Greater Mt. Teman AME Church, Elizabeth, delivered the opening prayer.

City Clerk, Yolanda M. Roberts, led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

The Honorable Roman A. Montes, Chief Judge, Elizabeth Municipal Court, administered the Oath of Office to Councilmen-Elect:

Manny Grova, Jr., (bible held by Mrs. Christine Grova, wife)
Nelson Gonzalez, (bible held by Mrs. Melissa Gonzalez, wife)
Joseph Keenan, (bible held by Mrs. Mona Lisa Keenan, wife)

The Honorable Carl L. Marshall, Judge, Elizabeth Municipal Court, administered the Oath of Office to Councilmen-Elect:

Carlos Cedeno, (bible held by Mrs. Jennifer Cedeno, wife)
William Gallman, Jr., (bible held by Mrs. Eva Gallman, wife)
Frank O. Mazza, (bible held by Mrs. Carmela Mazza, wife)

The City Clerk called the roll and the following members of City Council answered to their names:

PRESENT: Council Members-at-Large: ██████████; Frank J. Cuesta;
Edward Jackus
Council Members: Manny Grova, Jr., 1st Ward; Nelson Gonzalez, 2nd
Ward; Joseph Keenan, 3rd Ward; Carlos Cedeno, 4th Ward; William
Gallman, Jr., 5th Ward; Frank O. Mazza, 6th Ward - 8

ABSENT: Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste - 1

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The City Clerk announced that the first order of business would be the election of a Temporary President of City Council and then called for nominations.

Councilman Cuesta nominated Councilman Grova, which was seconded by Councilman Gonzalez.

There being no further nominations, Councilman Cuesta moved that nominations be closed.

The City Clerk cast the necessary ballot and then declared Councilman Grova, elected unanimously, as Temporary President.

Temporary President Grova thanked his colleagues for this honor that they bestowed upon him.

Temporary President Grova announced that the next order of business would be the election of a President of the City Council for the Year 2011, and called for nominations.

Councilman Cuesta nominated Councilman Keenan, which was seconded by Councilman Gonzalez.

There being no further nominations, Councilman Cuesta moved that nominations be closed.

Whereupon Temporary President Grova cast the necessary ballot and then declared Councilman Keenan, elected unanimously, as President of the City Council for the Year 2011.

Councilman Keenan then assumed the Chair as President.

Council President Keenan announced that he is honored to lead City Council for the Year 2011. He continued that he will provide the leadership for legislation and customer supports. He stated further that in 2011 he will keep things moving in spite of the monetary "cuts" that have been made by the State.

Council President Keenan thanked Mayor Bollwage for his great leadership and all of the members of City Council have been for four years or more. He continued that Council members see constituents at supermarkets, restaurants, etc., and City Council is here for you. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments for a job "well done" and everyone who works at City Hall does not hear "thank you" very often for their hard work.

Council President Keenan stated that he hopes to have a very productive year and "is looking forward to serving you."

Council President Keenan announced that the next order of business would be the election of a President Pro Tem of the City Council for the Year 2011 and called for nominations.

Councilman Grova nominated Councilman Gonzalez, which was seconded by Councilman Cuesta.

There being no further nominations, Councilman Grova moved that nominations be closed.

Council President Keenan cast the necessary ballot and then declared Councilman Gonzalez, elected unanimously, as President pro tem of the City Council for the Year 2011.

Council President Keenan then appointed Councilman Grova as Floor Leader of the City Council for the Year 2011.

Council President Keenan appointed Councilman Cuesta to deliver the prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

By the Clerk:
January 1, 2011
Honorable Members of City Council
City of Elizabeth
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201
Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please be advised that I am making the following re-appointments to the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library:
Ms. Annie Colina, 33 Country Club Lane, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a Trustee of the Free Public Library for a five year term.
Ms. Shirley Kety, 235 Summit Road, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a Trustee of the Free Public Library for a five year term.

Sincerely,
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor
Which was received.

By the Clerk:
January 1, 2011
Honorable Members of City Council
City of Elizabeth
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201
Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please be advised that I am making the following changes on the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library:

I am promoting Ms. Evelyn Altobelli, 706 Magie Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve out the unexpired term of Ms. Virginia Cortico (12/31/13).
I am appointing Leticia R. Salerno, 732 Van Buren Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201 to serve as an Alternate Member replacing Ms. Evelyn Altobelli.
Sincerely,
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor
Which was received.

By the Clerk:
January 1, 2011
Honorable Members of City Council
City of Elizabeth
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201
Ladies & Gentlemen:

This is to advise you that I have made the following appointments and re-appointments to the Planning Board:
I herewith appoint Commissioner Charlotte Brown, 548 Walnut Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201 to serve as a Class IV Member of the Planning Board for a term of four years.

I herewith re-appoint Commissioner Thomas Callinan, 834 Gibbons Court, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202 to serve as a Class IV Member of the Planning Board for a term of four years.
I herewith appoint Commissioner Charles T. Shallcross, 117 Princeton Road, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as (Alternate #1) Member of the Planning Board for a term of two years.

I herewith appoint Ms. Carina N. Balana, 335 Second Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07206 to serve as (Alternate #2) Member of the Planning Board for a term of two years.

I herewith re-appoint Commissioner Maria Z. Carvalho, 6 Palisade Road, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a (Class II) Member of the Planning Board for a one year term.
Sincerely,
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor
Which was received.



By the Clerk:
January 1, 2011
Honorable Members of City Council
City of Elizabeth
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201
Ladies & Gentlemen:

Subject to the confirmation of your Honorable Body, I herewith re-appoint Ms. Cecelia F. Frazier, 170 Community Lane, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07206 to serve as a Member of the Elizabeth Housing Authority for a five year term.
Sincerely,
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor
Which was received.

By the Clerk:
January 1, 2011
Honorable Members of City Council
City of Elizabeth
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201
Ladies & Gentlemen:

Subject to the confirmation of your Honorable Body, I herewith appoint Councilman Nelson Gonzalez, 413 Rosehill Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202 to serve as a Class III Member of the Planning Board for a one year term.
Sincerely,
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor
Which was received.

By the Clerk:
January 1, 2011
Honorable Members of City Council
City of Elizabeth
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201
Ladies & Gentlemen:

Subject to the confirmation of your Honorable Body, I herewith make the following appointments and re-appoints to the Board of Adjustment:
I herewith reappoint Commissioner Fernando F. Fernandez, 743 Eaton Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202 to serve as a Member of the Board of Adjustment for a term of four years.
I herewith re-appoint Commissioner Antonio Goncalves, 618 Norwood Terrace, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202 to serve as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate No. 1) for a term of two years.
I herewith re-appoint Commissioner Rev. Larry E. Dixon, 550 Riverside Drive, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate Member No. 2) for a term of two years.
I herewith appoint Commissioner Elizabeth Cano, 210 Stiles Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 to serve as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate No. 3) for a term of one year to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Jessica Gomes-Moreira (12/31/11) who has recently resigned.
I herewith appoint Mr. Orlando P. Galvez, 421 New York Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202 to serve as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate No. 4) to fill the unexpired term (12/31/11) of Commissioner Elizabeth Cano who was recently promoted to Alternate No. 3.
Sincerely,
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor
Which was received.

By the Clerk:
January 1, 2011
Honorable Members of City Council
City of Elizabeth
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201
Ladies & Gentlemen:
Subject to the confirmation of your Honorable Body, I herewith appoint Councilman Joseph Keenan, Rocco DiPaola, Esq., and Paul Lesniak to serve as members of the Insurance Fund Commission for a two year term.
Sincerely,
J. Christian Bollwage, Mayor
Which was received.

NEW BUSINESS

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby and consent to the re-appointment of Ms. Ceceilia F. Frazier, 170 Community Lane, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07206 as a member of the Elizabeth Housing Authority for a term of five years pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: [Redacted] Cuesta, Jackus,
Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza,
and President Keenan - 8

NEGATIVE: None

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does

hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Councilman Nelson Gonzalez, 413 Rosehill Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202 as a Class III Member of the Planning Board for a one year term pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE:

[REDACTED] Cuesta, Jackus,
Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza,
and President Keenan - 8

NEGATIVE:

None

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does

hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Mr. Fernando F. Fernandez, 743 Eaton Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07202 as a Member of the Board of Adjustment for a term of four years, pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE:

[REDACTED] Cuesta, Jackus,
Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza,
and President Keenan - 8

NEGATIVE:

None

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Mr. Antonio Goncalves, 618 Norwood Terrace, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07202 to serve as a Member of the Board of Adjustment for a four year term, pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: [REDACTED], Cuesta, Jackus, Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza, and President Keenan - 8

NEGATIVE: None

BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Rev. Dr. Larry E. Dixon, 550 Riverside Drive, Elizabeth, 07208 as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate No. 2) for a term of two years pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: [REDACTED] Cuesta, Jackus, Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza, and President Keenan - 8

NEGATIVE: None

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Ms. Elizabeth Cano, 210 Stiles Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07208 as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate No. 3) to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Jessica Gomes-Moreira (12/31/11) who has recently resigned pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: [redacted], Cuesta, Jackus, Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza, and President Keenan - 8

NEGATIVE: None

BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Mr. Orlando P. Galves, 421 New York Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07202 as a Member of the Board of Adjustment (Alternate #4) to fill the unexpired term (12/31/11) of Commissioner Elizabeth Cano who was recently promoted to Alternate No. 3 pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: [redacted], Cuesta, Jackus, Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza, and President Keenan - 8

NEGATIVE: None

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Councilman Joseph Keenan, 1012 Kipling Road, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208, as a Member of the Insurance Fund Commission for a two year term, pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: [redacted] Cuesta, Jackus,
Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza,
and President Keenan - 8

NEGATIVE: None

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the reappointment of Rocco DiPaola, Esq., 219 Halsted Road, Elizabeth 07208, as a Member of the Insurance Fund Commission for a two year term, pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: [redacted] Cuesta, Jackus,
Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza,
and President Keenan - 8

NEGATIVE: None

BY CITY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elizabeth does hereby advise and consent to the appointment of Mr. Paul Lesniak, 750 Jackson Ave., Elizabeth 07201, as a Member of the Insurance Fund Commission for a two year term, pursuant to the Code of the City of Elizabeth.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: [redacted] Cuesta, Jackus, Grova, Gonzalez, Cedeno, Gallman, Mazza, and President Keenan - 8
NEGATIVE: None

Council President Keenan then presented His Honor the Mayor and announced that the Mayor will administer the Oath of Office to confirmed and direct appointments.

Council President Keenan announced that the Mayor will deliver his Annual Message.

Reverend Clergy, members of the City Council, elected officials, friends, family and citizens:

As our country navigates through these challenging economic times, we focus on investments that will:

- Give residents more opportunities
- Build our economy stronger
- And SECURE our position as the GREATEST urban center in New Jersey

John F. Kennedy once said, "... Surviving the perils of today...compels us to invest in our.... future, to consider and meet our obligations to our children and generations that will follow."

We have invested in our:

- Neighborhoods
- Safety & Technology
- And Economic Development

And this year we continue to INVEST in Elizabeth's FUTURE:

- Maintaining our services
- Strengthening the foundation of our community
- and preparing for our success in the next decade

Continuing our vision, we have paved the way for more efficient and accessible transportation.

Last year, we completed a \$14 million dollar Road Resurfacing Program, which included 25 streets throughout our business and residential neighborhoods.

We have invested \$3 million dollars in a flood improvement program. From storm sewer upgrades along Verona and Gebhardt Avenues to drainage system enhancements on Summer Street, these projects will:

- Alleviate flooding
- Incorporate catch basins
- Add a new pumping station and control building at Kean University

While we work on our infrastructure, we are also improving the pedestrian walkways in our busiest shopping districts.

Using funds from President Obama's Stimulus Program, we have invested in new streetscapes on Elizabeth Avenue and Broad Street including:

- new sidewalks
- light posts
- crosswalks
- trees

As our business districts continue to grow and thrive, it is important to develop support structures to meet the needs and demands of their expansion.

This year a brand new 1,500 space parking deck and 27,000 s/f commercial project will open in Midtown.

Located on West Jersey Street, the new development will consist of an:

- 8-story parking deck
- 3-story office/retail building
- creating more places to park while you shop and visit Elizabeth

From restoring our business districts to investing in our infrastructure, we are transforming neighborhoods.

Working closely with Kean University, we are identifying retail, housing and service needs within our Transit Village area.

The recently completed Morris Avenue Study, examines the creation of a University Boulevard, which will directly link Kean University to our Midtown including:

- new streetscapes
- pedestrian and bikeways
- mixed retail
- increased residential space
- green development
- and employment opportunities

Strengthening this partnership, we have developed a new initiative, which will assist local merchants and prospective business owners.

The NJ Small Business Development Center at Kean University has joined with the City to offer a series of bi-weekly workshops at the Elizabeth Business Resource Center.

These investments will ensure that visitors, families and merchants continue to support and contribute to the ongoing growth of our business districts.

From shopping our local stores to dining at one of our unique restaurants, there is something for everyone in Elizabeth!

More than 30 establishments participated in our highly successful Restaurant Week, showcasing our culinary diversity.

This partnership with the Elizabeth Rotary Club, attracted hundreds of new customers who made significant investments in our local economy.

Promoting our retail businesses is important, as is supporting our community partners.

Brand New Day is working to aid residents hurting from the housing and economic crisis by:

- building affordable housing
- providing foreclosure and homeownership counseling
- and engaging in neighborhood redevelopment

A new 6-unit condominium project, located on First Street, is providing investment opportunities for first time homebuyers.

These Energy Star Certified homes will feature:

- 3 Bedrooms/2 Baths
- A Community Room
- And Private Parking

Brand New Day is not just focused on brick and mortar, they are investing in the future of our families.

Featured in the Star Ledger, the new \$1.7 million dollar "YouthBuild" initiative is helping participants:

- learn the construction trade
- manage personal finances
- and interview for jobs

Providing hope and rebuilding lives, this program offers young adults a second chance to be positive role models and make productive contributions throughout our City.

We are making investments in the development and well-being of our children.

This year, our Recreation Department will continue improvements with:

- A new gym floor at Erxleben
- state of the art spray park on Anna Street
- and synthetic turf at the Waterfront fields

On New Point Road and South Park Street, Grier Playground was created. Funded in part through a Union County Grant, it features:

- two play areas for children
- sidewalks and curbing
- and new trees

We also:

- renovated infields
- added a warning track to Hanratty and Elizabeth Port Fields
- installed new roofs at Erxleben, Miller Evans Logan and Mickey Walker Centers
- And during the summer, we provided free lunch and snacks to more than 1,400 children

As our population increases, we must continue to invest in our youth.

Our Office on Youth just completed their 11th year, providing children with a productive atmosphere to grow through:

- Building Future Leaders
- S.O.A.R.
- Safe Haven
- Curfew and Afterschool Programs

From youth-oriented activities to events such as the Read-a-Thon and Citywide Spelling Bee, these initiatives instill the importance of investing in our community and have provided our young adults with many resources for success.

Ladies and Gentlemen, green energy, technology and jobs are one of the fastest growing development paths to prosperity. We have planned and prepared for it.

As one of the top 50 greenest cities in the nation, our investments in our children, our city and our environment are paying off.

Partnering with community organizations for environmental improvements, Groundwork Elizabeth has:

- honored our Veterans through the revitalization of Sheridan Park
- developed The Green Team with high school students
- incorporated park cleanups and the Planter Program
- and held the 7th Annual Tour de Elizabeth, attracting nearly 500 riders

Last year the City of Elizabeth was one of sixty-seven municipalities in New Jersey that received a bronze level certification through the Sustainable Jersey program, which:

- increases our eligibility for grant funding
- and enhances ongoing Green initiatives

The City of Elizabeth has completed energy audits on its municipal buildings, and all will be retrofitted with solar panels by Spring 2011.

These upgrades will:

- increase our efficiency
- reduce energy costs by nearly \$270,000 in the first year alone
- and result in an accumulated savings of \$4.4 million dollars over time

Our City will use more than \$750,000 dollars in funds from the Energy Block Grant to implement audit recommendations. This investment in new energy will create jobs for our residents.

To help homeowners save on utility bills, we launched the Energy Revolving Loan Program.

And under this innovative new program homeowners can:

- Weatherize and seal their house
- Leverage government rebates and incentives
- Upgrade lights and lighting fixtures
- Install heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units

Quickly becoming the future of development, green architecture helps residents and businesses save money.

Spearheading these initiatives, The Elizabeth Development Company continues to provide assistance throughout our City.

Green design was incorporated into the Laundry Warehouse located on the Bayway Circle. Investments at this facility included:

- A green heating system
- Saving up to 40% in overall costs

Further investing in our community, Atlanta Corporation completed their \$19 million dollar expansion, adding:

- more than 72,000 s/f of warehouse and office space
- and generating 75 new jobs

Atlanta continues to be an advocate for green energy, creating a Demand Response System and incorporating:

- Motion Sensor lights
- Solar panels
- And trees along Slater Drive

Under EDC's Renewable Energy Capital Stimulus Program, Danic Two was approved to install solar panels on a newly constructed, refrigerated warehouse. Energy from the system will:

- Offset electricity consumption
- And provide an annual savings of \$45,000 dollars

In total last year, EDC:

- Distributed more than \$1.6 million dollars in funding
- Created more than 100 employment opportunities
- And leveraged more than \$16 million dollars in private and public investments

As we invest in our environment, we continue to look for ways to reduce energy costs and create affordable housing.

This Spring, the state's first senior affordable Gold LEED certified building, will open in Elizabeth.

This 30 unit, \$10 million mixed-use investment, will feature 3,700 s/f of commercial space and include:

- Energy star appliances
- Rainwater catchment system
- Sun Shades
- And solar paneling

Last year, the City of Elizabeth received nearly \$5 million dollars in Neighborhood Stabilization funds, which leveraged an additional \$14 million dollars in investments.

Utilizing green technology, 92 residential units will be constructed including 14 buildings in:

- Elizabethport
- New Point Road
- and Keighry Head

And as we continue to enhance our City, we are also investing in our future by incorporating interactive media and green technology.

Through a joint venture between the City of Elizabeth and Kean University a new touch-screen kiosk is now open at Jersey Gardens. Located on the second floor in front of the new Forever 21, you can navigate our city and the university in just minutes.

Whether you are looking for a restaurant, a place to stay or interested in furthering your education, this kiosk has it all.

With 15 million visitors from 154 countries, Jersey Gardens remains one of the top tourist destinations in the state.

With another successful year, the mall continues to flourish with expansions and new store openings such as:

- The first ever Lord & Taylor Outlet
- Armani Exchange
- And H&M

Now in its eleventh year, our Retail Skills Center is continuing to invest in our residents by providing employment opportunities:

- Training 565 people in 2010
- And finding jobs for more than 400 residents

From expansions to renovations, investments in our businesses continued.

Our Health Department is dedicated to providing free health services to our residents with:

- 800 seasonal flu shots
- 900 immunizations
- dental services for more than 1800 children
- and 1200 residents served at our public health clinic

This year, the City's Health Department will work closely with Kean University. From our Senior Centers to our Afterschool Programs, new workshops will be added, expanding access to information and services.

Trinitas Regional Medical Center continues to invest in their facilities and create jobs for our community.

As the County's second largest employer, Trinitas:

- has created one of the country's top wound healing centers
- will develop the state-of-the-art Center of Regional Education on Elizabeth Avenue:
 - providing medical skills
 - health training
 - serving up to 50,000 people every year

Our investments in public safety continue as we enhance vital services.

In 2010, the City of Elizabeth received grants totaling more than \$2 million, which will allow the Police Department to:

- install 150 cameras linked directly to headquarters
- mitigate traffic problems
- and ease transportation

Last year, in partnership with the Elizabeth Housing Authority, surveillance cameras were installed at Mravlag Manor.

Through the use of these cameras and off-site surveillance, the streets of Elizabeth have received an added level of protection.

In addition, the Police Department was able to purchase 12 new vehicles equipped with:

- Mobile Data terminals
- Global Positioning Systems
- As well as radios, lights and sirens

To improve efficiency, we have streamlined emergency operations. Increasing response time and overall effectiveness, Police and Fire Dispatch were combined into a Centralized Center within Police Headquarters.

The Elizabeth Fire Department continues to upgrade their equipment and invest in their vehicle fleet.

More than \$2 million in federal grant funding was secured, enabling the addition of:

- Heavy Rescue and Maritime Response Units
- Extrication Equipment
- Turn-out Gear and Personal Rescue Systems

Our INVEST Elizabeth vision is about sound fiscal management, great partnerships and planning for the future.

It is the strength of THIS vision that will keep Elizabeth the region's premiere destination.

INVEST Elizabeth means:

- Beautifying and preserving our environment
- Growing our economy in exciting new ways
- Improving the health and well-being of our children
- Utilizing green technology and enhancing opportunities
- And above all, improving safety through state-of-the-art advancements

The quality of our investments is defined by the strength of our partnerships and the impact on our future.

But the greatest investment we can make is in the potential of our residents.

Ward by Ward, we are increasing jobs and improving neighborhood services. From North End to Bayway - from the Port to Elmora, our investments are providing the people of Elizabeth with the resources to build better lives.

It is the promise of our remarkable City that strengthens our vision and enables us to create a more exceptional tomorrow.

As we move forward, hand and hand, we continue to expand our horizons and embrace our investments together:

- because these are OUR neighborhoods
- this is OUR home
- and this IS ELIZABETH'S MOMENT

Thank you and May God continue to Bless the City of Elizabeth.

Council President Keenan ordered that the Mayor's message be received and spread in full upon the minutes of the City Council.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

There being no one present who desired to be heard, Council President Keenan declared the public speaking portion of the meeting closed.

Reverend Larry Dixon delivered the benediction.

Councilman Grova moved that City Council do now adjourn,
Which was carried unanimously.

Whereupon Council President Keenan declared City Council adjourned at
1:10 p.m.

APPROVED

JOSEPH KEENAN
President of City Council

YOLANDA M. ROBERTS
Deputy City Clerk