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**MAYOR REDD ANNOUNCES \$4 MILLION FROM THE SOUTH JERSEY
PORT P.I.L.O.T. AGREEMENT TO BE USED TO SAVE PUBLIC SAFETY JOBS**

CAMDEN – Mayor Dana L. Redd today announced that her Administration will seek to use the FY2010 \$4 million South Jersey Port PILOT agreement payment to save and minimize public safety positions from layoffs.

“My top priority has always been the safety of our residents, businesses, and visitors,” Mayor Redd said. “That is why I will seek to utilize the \$4 million from the FY2010 Port PILOT agreement towards reducing the amount of layoffs in public safety positions. This step will be taken to minimize and mitigate a reduction in force for public safety personnel.”

In addition to the \$4 million South Jersey Port PILOT agreement being utilized for public safety, Mayor Redd, on numerous occasions, has clearly demonstrated her unwavering commitment to public safety. When the Mayor had to make budget reductions to balance the inherited FY2010 City budget, she made cuts in all facets of government besides areas of public safety. For the proposed introduced FY2011 budget, the Mayor also made significant cost saving and enhancement measures such as transitioning the City libraries to the Camden County Library system; changed the City’s solid waste collection to once a week for seven months and twice a week for five months; made across the board increases in licensing and permit fees; and other measures.

The Mayor also worked with our Congressional delegation to secure more than \$4 million in a federal COPS grant for the police department and is in the application process for a federal SAFER grant for the fire department. After submitting a top-quality Transition Aid to Localities (TAL) application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and demonstrating to the Governor’s Office that Camden is willing to take the necessary steps to improve its finances and reduce its reliance on state aid, Mayor Redd was able to secure \$69 million in transitional aid.

(more)

For further clarification on the City's TAL award, this past September, the City of Camden submitted a \$54 million TAL application to the DCA. In October, the City amended its application and requested an additional \$13.5 million to cover added costs such as pension payments, which the City received after it sent the original application, cash deficit, reserve for uncollected taxes, and Public Works needs. The City also requested an additional \$8.5 million to reduce the number of layoffs. The amended total aid the City requested now totaled \$75.8 million. On November 24, the DCA granted the City \$69 million in aid, of which, only \$1.5 million could be used to reduce layoffs. This still left the City with a \$26.5 million shortfall.

The \$4 million will only minimize the number of layoffs. Concessions from the bargaining units are still needed to save additional public safety positions. Since the New Jersey Civil Service Commission and Camden City Council approved the City's layoff plan, Mayor Redd is hopeful that the bargaining units will continue to have ongoing discussions with the Administration for the benefit of the residents of Camden.

"Having to do more with less, particularly in the current economy, is a difficult but attainable task," Mayor Redd said. "I am extremely grateful for all the assistance the Governor and Commissioner Grifa has provided my Administration and the City of Camden. Though the City is faced with many financial obstacles, my Administration is doing everything in our power to maintain public safety and save jobs."

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