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**FEDERAL GAO REPORT DEMONSTRATES MAYOR REDD'S ADMINISTRATION  
COMMITMENT TO BRING POSITIVE CHANGE TO CAMDEN**

**CAMDEN, NJ** – On the heels of receiving its fourth consecutive unmodified audit opinion, the City of Camden, in a United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, was used as an example of how it properly managed federal grants and effectively worked with various federal agencies. The report reviewed the oversight of federal grants received by municipalities in fiscal crisis.

“I am extremely proud of the work my Administration has done to change Camden’s trajectory for the better,” Mayor Dana L. Redd said. “In just five years, we have gone from being the poster child of what is wrong with urban America to becoming a national model of how to work through your challenges to create positive results. The fact that the report issued by the GAO positively highlighted Camden’s efforts validates what we have been touting – that Camden is on the rise and moving forward.”

“Camden has clearly demonstrated strong fiscal control and implemented policies to ensure effective management moving forward,” said NJ Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III. “We are pleased to see that Camden is being recognized for their efforts.”

For its report, the GAO conducted site visits of four municipalities – Detroit, Michigan; Flint, Michigan; Camden, New Jersey; and Stockton, California. The GAO focused on eight grant programs administered by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and the US Department of Transportation (DOT).

In one section titled, *Reductions in Human Capital Capacity Affected the Ability of Municipalities to Manage Federal Grants, but the Impact Varied*, the GAO report stated “although Camden laid off a quarter of its workforce in 2011, staffing levels in its Department of Planning and Development did not suffer as severely...Camden officials attributed this to the fact that HUD provides funds for planning and administrative costs for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).”

In another section of the report, it highlighted the fact that “Camden collaborated with local nonprofits to apply for federal grants. This collaboration helped them address challenges they

faced with human capital capacity.” The GAO report also mentioned how Camden worked with the DOJ COPS Office to ensure the transfer of grant funds for its new police force under the Camden County Police Department.

The GOA report can be viewed by visiting its webpage at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-222>

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