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City of Camden establishes jobs Linkline

“Giving hope, creating opportunities, and providing real sustainable jobs for Camden residents is the key to truly moving our City forward,” Mayor Redd said. “The true revitalization of Camden cannot be fully achieved unless our residents can get the jobs that are in our own back yard. With Linkline in place, Camden residents have a number to call not just for someone to tell them where job openings are, but to help them obtain the right skills to get and maintain a real job to sustain their families.”

On September 18, 2013, Governor Christie signed into law the New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013, co-sponsored by Senator Donald Norcross. The Act designates Camden and three other cities as “Garden State Growth Zones” where business and job creation will be prioritized. With the Act now in place, Camden is poised to see an influx of businesses that will be seeking Camden residents to fill a variety of positions.

“The best social program is a good job, and the Economic Opportunity Act means jobs for Camden. We want to make sure our residents are prepared to take full advantage of the opportunities that will become available,” said Senator Norcross. “The hotline is designed to provide residents with important job training and workplace readiness skills tailored to potential employers. With this partnership linking well-qualified job seekers to new job creators, we’re putting Camden to work.”

The establishment of the Linkline is critical to ensuring residents are well-positioned to take full advantage of the new employment opportunities. Therefore, the UOSS will establish, connect and coordinate job creation and job training opportunities between employers and job seekers. With its proven track record of coordinating services, the UOSS is well-established to lead the job and work place readiness training. Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli commended the Governor and the Senator for their vision and foresight to jumpstart economic investment in the city.

“The act is going to be a catalyst for job creation in the city and we need a workforce that is ready to hit the ground running,” Cappelli said. “This hotline and training center will give the

residents of Camden the resources and skill sets they need to be prepared and successful for the forthcoming growth in new jobs throughout the city.”

A host of non-profit, city, county and state agencies will be made available to interested residents through the UOSS Linkline. Job seekers will receive customized job readiness and specialized training to fill skills gaps. Employers will receive a well-trained, local workforce.

“Partnering with the City in helping residents to pursue successful careers is just one of the many reasons we are so proud to be bringing a ShopRite to Camden,” said Jason Ravitz, Vice President of Retail Operations for Supermarkets of Cherry Hill, a family-owned business which will own and operate the future ShopRite of Camden. “We are committed to helping our associates to excel and advance within our organization. The goal of the new Hotline is a natural extension of the extensive training and development programs we offer to our associates and we look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence in Camden with the opening of this new store.”

Local, county and state officials were joined by area employers including ShopRite and Camden Iron and Metal for the announcement.