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**NJEDA BOARD APPROVAL TO INDUSTRY LEADER MARKS YET ANOTHER POTENTIAL
EOA PROJECT TO CALL CAMDEN ITS HOME**

*American Water Will Explore Relocating Its Headquarters & Operations Into A Single Facility Located
In The Gateway District Of Camden Which Will Accommodate More Than 900 Employees & Occupants*

CAMDEN, NJ – Mayor Dana L. Redd today applauded the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board for approving yet another major development project through the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 (EOA). The project includes industry leader in water quality, testing and treatment, American Water, potentially relocating the company’s headquarters to a single 300,000 square foot facility located adjacent to Campbell Soup and Subaru in Camden’s Gateway District. American Water would relocate its 600 employees with the ability to increase its employment to more than 900. This EOA project approval further demonstrates Camden’s revitalization efforts is real and growing stronger.

“Along with our partners at Campbell Soup and Brandywine, the City of Camden is well on its way to establishing the Gateway District as one of the regions premier corporate parks,” said **Mayor Dana L. Redd**. “We can now boast two Fortune 500 companies (Campbell Soup & Subaru) and now the addition of a Fortune 1000 company (American Water). This project will result in a significant number of construction jobs and employment opportunities for Camden residents.”

“City Council and I fully support Mayor Redd and her efforts to attract business and advance economic development here in Camden,” **City Council President Frank Moran said**. “The economic activity in Camden is extraordinary. I also commend the NJEDA and those businesses which are committed to providing jobs for residents. For the first time in many years, our residents have real opportunities to obtain meaningful jobs.”

The City has also partnered with the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD) to prepare Camden residents for the vast number of job opportunities created through the EOA. For example, the City was included in a NJLWD \$150,000 NJ Build grant which will train Camden residents for construction related jobs. Also, the NJLWD has invested \$500,000 to train and link Camden residents to on demand job opportunities.

“The EOA has truly been a great tool to keep or add jobs right here in our State,” Mayor Redd said. “Quite simply, without the EOA, American Water, like many other companies, was planning to relocate to Philadelphia. That’s 600 employees that would have been lost. This is why it is important to link in the impact to the community when discussing the overall net benefits test. The tax credits approved to attract American Water have assured that this company will remain in Camden and New Jersey for years to come.

As a strong believer in job retention and job creation opportunities for our residents, I am confident that the total net benefit to society and the taxpayers will be well worth the investment.”

“Thanks to this opportunity, I’ve been able to turn around my life,” said **Camden resident Tarrig Ayers**. “It’s a really good, stable job. In the past, local residents were overlooked when it came to jobs. Not this time. I am an example that local residents are getting hired and are getting the chance to work on these projects. It’s a huge for me and so many others.”

“I can say I have experienced a significant increase in business as a result of the recent EOA approved projects,” said **Walt Dixon, owner of Contractor Services**. “I am extremely happy to see the City and others working to make sure local residents are employed and local businesses like mine are benefiting from the increased activity. It’s encouraging to see these projects benefit businesses both large and small. I strongly support these incentives and think we are on the right track in terms of revitalizing the City.”

“These types of projects have opened the door for us to participate in other projects and be a part of the larger rebirth of the city of Camden,” said **Rahila Bashir, owner of Bashir Brothers Construction**. “Without the EOA incentives and the ability to attract projects like this, it would be difficult for a Camden based business. We hire locally and employ Camden residents, so the effects of supporting local businesses have a huge ripple effect.”

In addition to being a world class industry leader in water quality, testing and treatment, American Water has also proven to be an exemplary corporate citizen and community partner by providing millions of dollars in grant funding to support neighborhood revitalization initiatives.

“American Water is a superb community partner as they have already worked with local organizations like the Salvation Army Kroc Center, Heart of Camden, St. Joe’s Carpenter Society, and Camden Lutheran Housing to provide services to the Camden community. We look forward to a prosperous future together as we move forward.”

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