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CITY OF CAMDEN NAMED FINALIST FOR FEDERAL CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT

\$30 Million Dollars Grant Award is Aimed at Transforming Targeted Neighborhoods

CAMDEN, NJ - Mayor Dana L. Redd and Camden City Council commend federal officials for the recent announcement by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), that the City of Camden has been selected as one of the nine finalists from across the nation for the Choice Neighborhood implementation grant.

"This is wonderful news and I am so proud that Camden has been selected as one of the nine finalists," Mayor Dana Redd said. "I would like to praise our federal partners and our Congressional Delegation which includes Congressman Donald Norcross, Senator Robert Menendez, and Senator Corey Booker for their efforts to advocate on behalf of Camden. Without this support, Camden would be not in such a position. The City and particularly these targeted neighborhoods are challenged by decades of blight and urban decay. Our approach to revitalization has been a holistic one, as we have focused on enhancing public safety, changing educational outcomes for our children, providing quality housing for residents, and improving the quality of life throughout Camden. The doors to opportunity have opened for Camden. This federal Choice Neighborhood funding would be transformational for our City."

"This hopeful development signals yet another potential transformative moment in Camden's bright future," said Congressman Donald Norcross. "Our friends and neighbors in Camden deserve fair and equal access to quality homes, schools and infrastructure. This grant, if awarded to Camden, will put them a step closer to that well-deserved opportunity."

"This is extremely encouraging as Choice funding would be a catalyst for significant change," said City Council President Frank Moran. "I commend Mayor Redd and Congressman Norcross, Senator Menendez, and Senator Booker for their efforts to ensure Camden is well positioned and prepared for this funding opportunity. Our residents and these targeted neighborhoods are currently at a real disadvantage. Choice would allow the City to address many of the longstanding problems that have plagued our community."

If awarded, the \$30 million dollar Choice Neighborhood grant would provide the funding needed to support neighborhood stabilization efforts and implementation of various redevelopment projects identified as a part of the Mount Ephraim Plan. These improvements include demolition, remediation of contaminated sites, facade and energy improvements to existing buildings, infrastructure enhancements, and the funding for new schools. The plan also includes a transit oriented development that calls for the construction of 460 new mixed income housing units.

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