



PRESS RELEASE

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Largest demolition project in state history improves neighborhoods

(Camden, NJ) – The last phase of the largest residential demolition project in state history aimed at eliminating 591 blighted structures throughout the City of Camden is nearing completion. The project, which began in January of 2015, has demolished, properly disposed of material and remediated more than 500 properties throughout the city.

“The size and scope of this project is massive and unprecedented in the state of New Jersey. This initiative has eliminated nuisance properties that are public safety hazards in order to improve all of Camden’s neighborhoods,” Cappelli said. “Removing these dilapidated homes will enhance the quality of life for the children and families that live on these blocks and open up property that was deteriorated and abandoned to a new future.”

In addition, to the volume of units included in the project the local economy benefitted by more than 75 percent of the workforce being locally hired. In all, six local subcontractors with city roots participated in the project.

“This demolition project is part of a larger strategy aimed at enhancing the quality of life throughout the City of Camden. We promised our residents a better Camden and we are delivering on that promise,” said Mayor Dana Redd. “We are not simply eliminating unsafe structures from our community, we are creating jobs and opportunity for our residents. With these dilapidated units gone and neighborhoods stabilized, we can focus on attracting new and exciting development.”

Camden County Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli Jr. and Camden Mayor Dana L. Redd spoke about the program’s impact on neighborhoods with community members at the intersection of Louis Street and Kaighn Avenue. They were joined by Camden County Police Assistant Chief Orlando Cuevas and Camden business leaders and tradesman.

“For far too long, Camden has been depicted as unsafe, with high levels of vacancy and little investment. I can tell you times have certainly changed as those days are coming to an end,” said Camden City Council President Frank Moran. “We are aggressively attacking these blighted areas while moving forward with unprecedented development. This project represents just one aspect of the dramatic change sweeping through Camden.”

Camden City Councilman Brian Coleman discussed the impact the removal of the abandoned buildings is having on the community.

“It’s all about making sure our neighborhoods are safe and clean. These abandoned buildings are dangerous and affect the wellbeing of our residents,” Colman said. “They enable illegal activity and hamper development efforts. I am pleased that our residents’ voices have been heard as so many of these structures are coming down.”