

CITY OF PLAINFIELD

Spring Newsletter

LOVE PLAINFIELD IN ACTION



MEETING THE MOMENT



LOVE PLAINFIELD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Love Is an Action

This issue of the City of Plainfield newsletter is dedicated to our Love Plainfield campaign, which we launched on March 9th. Love Plainfield is about all of us working together to celebrate and promote the Queen City's rich history and vibrant culture, support our small businesses, give back to our residents in need, restore pride in our community, and rededicate ourselves to keeping our city clean and green. As we fight to recover and rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Love Plainfield effort is needed now more than ever.

The year 2020 was incredibly difficult for our city, state, and nation, as we faced a life-altering crisis. Many of us lost loved ones, lost our jobs, fell ill, and had our lives disrupted. However, we stood together and rose above the hardship to forge a more unified and resilient community. I thank all of you for your commitment to our great city.

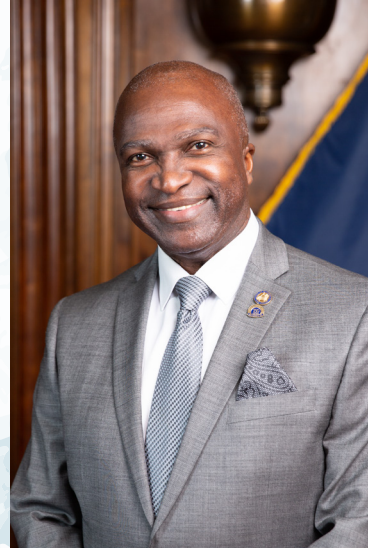
The dedicated individuals that comprise our city government also stepped up and made huge sacrifices to keep us safe and to keep services running throughout this crisis. Our first responders and health officials literally saved lives. I am immensely grateful for such an amazing and effective team. Because of their hard work and sustained dedication, we were able to continue some of the incredible progress we've made.

The pandemic remains a powerful threat, but together we are more powerful. I love the Queen City. Amelia and I raised our two daughters here and built a life here. Love is an action. That is why we must continue to uplift, celebrate, and promote our city throughout the year. We must show love to our neighbors and to this resilient city that we call home. We must Love Plainfield.

With Gratitude,

Adrian O. Mapp

Mayor, City of Plainfield



FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, WE HAD A ZERO PERCENT TAX INCREASE.

WE'RE NUMBER NINE ON THE BUSINESS INSIDER LIST OF THE TOP 25 SUBURBS WHERE HOME VALUES ARE GROWING THE FASTEST IN THE U.S.

WE MAINTAINED A VERY GOOD BOND RATING FROM MOODY'S DEMONSTRATING THAT WE'RE MANAGING THE CITY'S FINANCES RESPONSIBLY.

DESPITE RISING CRIME ACROSS THE NATION, OUR CRIME RATE DROPPED NEARLY 50%.

SINCE 2014, WE'VE PAVED AND ADDED HANDICAP RAMPS AND CURBING TO 44 MILES OF ROAD, TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 50% OF ROADWAYS.

A UNITED PLAINFIELD IS STRONGER THAN COVID-19

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

CITY WORKERS SERVED 78,908 MEALS TO PLAINFIELD FAMILIES THROUGH OUR "GRAB AND GO" PROGRAM.

Nothing embodies Love Plainfield more than the ways in which our people responded to the pandemic. You donated food, you distributed meals, you checked on your neighbors, and so much more.

The dedicated individuals that comprise our city government also dealt with a tremendous amount of loss, and yet, they stepped up and made sacrifices to keep us safe and to keep services running throughout this crisis. Our Department of Communication and Technology mobilized virtual workstations, giving employees the means to work remotely. The concept of love thy neighbor was on full display; this is resilience at work.



LOVING OUR SENIORS

DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC, HOME-BOUND SENIORS RECEIVED OVER 12,000 MEAL DELIVERIES ON WEEKDAYS.

We were careful to ensure the safety of one of our most vulnerable populations: our seniors. Each month, the senior center staff served 2,680 members of the Senior Center while observing social distancing protocols. On weekends, approximately 300 hot meals were delivered to members' homes in partnership with the Hope Foundation and Humanity First. We also provided free tablets to our seniors, facilitating involvement in an array of educational, social, and virtual entertainment programs.

We're happy to share that on May 18th and 19th we hosted a "soft opening" for the Senior Center.



OUR COVID-19 RELIEF FUND DISPERSED OVER \$30,000 TO PLAINFIELD FAMILIES IN NEED.



OUR PLAINFIELD UEZ COVID-19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND AWARDED ALMOST \$290,000 TO 42 LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR RENTAL COSTS, UTILITIES, PAYROLL, AND OTHER IMPORTANT EXPENSES.



OUR DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY AND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZED WEBINARS AND PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO HELP OUR SMALL BUSINESSES SECURE NEW JERSEY COVID-19 RELIEF GRANTS.

LOVING THE ARTS

We believe in the arts' enduring power to create hope—its impact in creating vital communities, inspiring curiosity and innovation, sharing diverse perspectives, creating jobs, and promoting equity and inclusion.

The Plainfield Performing Arts Center has several innovative artist residency programs planned to support our creative community.

The Theater Artist in Residency Program

is a one-year pilot program offered to emerging non-profit theater organizations, individual artists, and organizations.

The Visiting Artist Program provides short-term, low-cost/ no-cost opportunities for emerging interdisciplinary artists to produce, exhibit, or develop works at the Plainfield Performing Arts Center.

The Plainfield Visual Artist Collaborative Summer Residency provides three visual artists with a month-long studio opportunity to develop a collaborative project with two other artists.

Our city is not only progressing economically but artistically. We have a growing population of successful independent filmmakers, screenwriters, and film professionals.

LOVE PLAINFIELD YOUTH DRAWING COMPETITION

We are enormously proud to announce that in March of this year, we held a Love Plainfield Drawing Competition where all K-12 students from Plainfield could showcase their love for our great city! We extend congratulations to all the young people who participated. It's a pleasure to share some samples of their work. Let us take every opportunity to support and celebrate the youth of Plainfield.



OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHTER WHEN WE LET OUR YOUTH SHINE

WE HAVE INVESTED OVER \$5 MILLION IN NEW YOUTH RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

In unprecedented times, we are afforded the opportunity to reimagine our community in ways that generate spaces and programs that improve lives and build legacy for the next generation. During the pandemic as programs across our nation were canceled we worked hard to find innovative ways to continue some of our most critical youth initiatives. Plainfield will not recover if our youth do not recover, which is why we're launching new youth programs and expanding existing ones.

RUSHMORE RECREATIONAL COMPLEX

Investing in our youth is an investment in our city. During the pandemic, we worked hard to continue our highest priority projects. As a result, on May 1st we were able to cut the ribbon on the Rushmore Recreational Complex in the Fourth Ward.



KEAN SCHOLAR ACADEMY

On May 4th, Kean University announced that it selected and admitted students from Maxson Middle School into the inaugural class of the Kean Scholar Academy dual enrollment program for high school students. The Academy will offer Plainfield students the opportunity to earn up to 12-15 college credits in their major. They will also take part in mentorship programs, internships, and other academic experiences to prepare them for college success.



EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CREATING JOBS FOR OUR RESIDENTS

We look forward to the opening of DJBK, a new downtown restaurant co-created by a renowned chef and Landmark Hospitality. DJBK will work hand-in-hand with the Art of Hospitality Path to Success, a new culinary school that will provide a 6-8 week training program for the underemployed and create new job opportunities for the graduates.

We will be offering Cyber Security Training later this year, so look out for more information!

OVER 2,000 RESIDENTIAL UNITS AND 250,000 SQUARE FEET OF RETAIL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

THE QUIN

THE LARGEST RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN A GENERATION



THE RANDOLPH

TRANSFORMATION OF A BLIGHTED SITE INTO 120 RESIDENCES AND A MEDICAL MALL



THE STATION AT GRANT AVENUE

A 90-UNIT AFFORDABLE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY IN THE 4TH WARD



SMALL BUSINESSES

SINCE 2014, WE'VE WELCOMED 50 SMALL BUSINESSES, INCLUDING ROSE CIGARS





BLACK LIVES MATTER

BLACK LIVES MATTER PLAZA

Last year, we experienced not only the trauma of the pandemic, but we witnessed a national reckoning between the Black community and law enforcement. Here in Plainfield, we have a long legacy of peaceful and effective protests in our community and last year was no different. Our police force in conjunction with our residents strived to maintain an atmosphere of peace and respect.

To symbolize the community's collective commitment to equality, "Black Lives Matter" has been memorialized on the street in front of City Hall. Additionally, a resolution was passed to rename the plaza in front of City Hall The Black Lives Matter Plaza in order to stand in solidarity with Black and Brown communities across the nation.

As we witness cities across the country struggle with poor police community relations, Plainfield has been on the forefront of building trust and forging strong and positive relations between the community and law enforcement. The foundation of this effort was the requirement that most of our police officers are recruited from the city, which means that they are a part of this community. They are our neighbors.

**OUR EFFORTS HAVE ALSO
MADE THE QUEEN CITY SAFER.
VIOLENT CRIME IS DOWN BY
ALMOST 50%**

GEORGE FLOYD POLICE REFORM COMMISSION

Last year, I formed the George Floyd Police Reform Commission with the goal of reviewing current Plainfield Police Department policies and procedures and making recommendations submitted in a public report. We have great faith in our police force, but it is crucial that we maintain transparency and ensure we're utilizing best practices.

The Commission comprised a diverse group of Plainfield residents whose report and recommendations were presented at the culmination of two private and two public sessions, and then submitted to the Governor's Office, the Union County Prosecutor's Office, and the State Attorney General's Office.

Mayor Adrian O. Mapp
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Office of the Mayor
515 Watchung Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 753-3310

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ
PERMIT #1512

Let's Recover Together

If we are to recover, we must do it together. Our loved ones need us healthy and strong. If you haven't already, get vaccinated!

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER

Due to COVID-19, our annual fireworks show will be a drive-in event. **Register on Community Pass.**

For more information call the Plainfield Parks and Recreation Division at **908-753-3096**.

SOME VACCINATION APPOINTMENT RESOURCES

FRONT STREET PHARMACY

frontstpharmacy.com
204 E Front Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 222-7100

SCOTT DRUGS

scottdrugs.com
701 Park Ave
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-754-1600

PLAINFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER

NHSCNJ.org
1700-58 Myrtle Avenue,
Plainfield, NJ 07063
(908) 753-6401

WALGREENS

walgreens.com
1147 South Ave
Plainfield, NJ 07062
(908) 757-7703

PLAINFIELD SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

plainfieldnjseniorcenter.com
908-753-3506

UNION COUNTY

Book an appointment for Plainfield High School or Kean University at ucnj.org

RAPPS PHARMACY

611 Park Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-756-0008

LET'S LOVE PLAINFIELD TOGETHER

Let's show pride in our city by working together to keep it clean and green.

#LovePlainfieldNJ

