

PATERSON PERSEVERES

The Official Newsletter of Mayor André Sayegh

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MAYOR'S WELCOME

Dear readers,

As Mayor of the City of Paterson, I recognize how much the city has faced in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we have encountered unprecedented challenges, I am proud to say that Paterson has persevered!

Under my administration, the silk city has seen nearly \$1 billion in economic development investments, over \$30 million in grant funding, and we are implementing evidence-based practices to address the issues of public safety, public health, healthy housing, and much more. Great things are happening in the silk city!

As 2022 comes to an end, I am excited to continue to work with our local, statewide, and national partners to achieve additional successes. I am a strong believer in the motto "together, teamwork makes a dream work" and I appreciate each and every one of Paterson's partners. As we move onward, I look forward to leveraging the right partnerships and leading my administration with the same unwavering dedication that initially prompted me to run for public office - actions that will be key in further advancing the city.

I would like to thank the citizens of Paterson for entrusting me as your mayor, my administration, and all of our partners for supporting the city. I wish you and your families a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

André Sayegh
Mayor, City of Paterson

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mayor's Welcome.....1

Mayors' Roundtable on COVID-19 Policy.....2

Economic Development.....2

Hinchliffe Stadium: The New Jersey Jackals

Baseball Team's New Home

Affordable Housing: Riverside Terrace

Paterson Allocates \$5.7 Million to Renovate Parks

Small Business Walk-Through

Public Safety.....3

Paterson Community Court

Illegal Vehicle Ordinance and Operation Confiscation

Passage of Bail Reform Legislation

Gun Violence Awareness Day

Groundbreaking on Communications Center

Honoring Paterson's Municipal Clerk with Key to the City.....4

Community Engagement.....4-5

Larry Doby Day

Women's Equality Day

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Honoring Paterson's Longest Serving Pastor

Breast Cancer Awareness Walk

Domestic Violence Awareness Flag Raising

Christmas Tree Lighting

Menorah Lighting

Residential Resources.....6

Assistance for Paterson's Reentry Population

Office of Financial Empowerment

Passaic County Community College

Tuition-Free Opportunity

Department Directory.....7-8

Editor's Corner.....9

MAYORS' ROUNDTABLE ON COVID-19 POLICY



Mayor André Sayegh, alongside Dr. Steven M. Rose, President, Passaic County Community College, and Ishiya A. Hayes, Director of Policy and Planning, City of Paterson, Member of the New Jersey COVID-19 Task Force on Racial and Health Disparities hosted the *Mayors' Roundtable on the COVID-19 Pandemic: Policies and Practices for the Future*. Mayor Adrian O. Mapp, City of Plainfield, Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, City of Elizabeth, Ken Pincus, Health Officer, City of Passaic, Ketlen Baptiste Alsbrook, Acting Director & CEO, Department of Health and Wellness, City of Newark, Jennifer Mendrycki, Senior Vice



President and Chief Operating Officer and Kenneth Morris, Vice President of External Affairs of St. Joseph's Health also joined the roundtable to discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has unprecedentedly impacted the state of New Jersey's diverse and vulnerable populations and offer solutions to address these issues. Comments from this event were submitted to the Task Force for their final report to the New Jersey State Legislature. To view the news clip from this event visit <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-mayors-share-lessons-learned-from-the-pandemic/>.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Since the first term of the Sayegh Administration, the City has secured nearly \$1 billion in economic development projects. This includes new major developments, as well as restoring some of Paterson's most historic landmarks and public parks.

HINCHLIFFE STADIUM: THE NEW JERSEY JACKALS BASEBALL TEAM'S NEW HOME



The New Jersey Jackals, a member of the Frontier League – a professional baseball league consisting of 16 teams and a partner league to the Major League Baseball (MLB) will be relocating to the historic Hinchliffe Stadium. Preserving Paterson's historical landmarks and increasing tourist attractions have been a top priority for Mayor Sayegh. The restoration of Hinchliffe Stadium – one of the nation's last standing monuments to host Negro League Baseball games and the Jackals relocating there achieves just that! Owner of the Jackals, Al Dorso, who was born and raised in Paterson, in reference to the move stated, "This is a great opportunity at the right time in my life to give back and add to the rich history of this region. More importantly, we have approached this effort with a community-first mindset, starting with working with Mayor Sayegh and other local

officials and business leaders which we plan to expand to create a true ecosystem of opportunity in the months and years ahead." The Jackals will begin its first season at Hinchliffe in May 2023.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: RIVERSIDE TERRACE

Mayor André Sayegh alongside Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., Irma Gorham, Executive Director of the Paterson Housing Authority, Israel Roizman, project developer/owner of Roizman Development, Inc., and members of the Paterson City Council celebrated the grand opening of Riverside Terrace which includes the Riverside Village Family and the Riverside Village Senior Apartments. This \$92 million project features 245 affordable housing units for seniors and families. Amenities include classrooms, a basketball court, a children's room, and a community building. Additionally, there are townhouse-style units, lounge areas, an outdoor patio, and garden space. The Paterson Housing Authority will also provide social service programs on-site to residents in need.



PATERSON ALLOCATES \$5.7 MILLION TO RENOVATE PARKS

The City of Paterson allocated American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to renovate parks throughout each of Paterson's six wards. Announced by Mayor André Sayegh, Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., and Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, this nearly \$6 million investment will be utilized to repair turf surfaces, fencing, and trails, and install bleachers and lighting in efforts to increase visibility and safety. In addition, new infiltration systems and lifeguard stands will be installed at two city pools.

Parks that will be improved by this investment include Commons Field, Tyrone Collins Park, Cobbs Park, Buckley Park, Westside Park, Eastside Park, Anthony Lucas Park, Barbour Park, Roberto Clemente Park, and Alabama Ave/Trenton Ave. The pools that will be renovated are Riverside Vets Pool and Lou Costello Pool.

SMALL BUSINESS WALK-THROUGH

Senator Cory Booker joined Mayor André Sayegh to conduct a small business walk-through in South Paterson. This commercial corridor has undergone major improvements and became vibrant for economic development. This timely visit occurred one day prior to the Senator urging the United States Small Business Administration to make its core loan programs and entrepreneurial development services more accessible especially to individuals impacted by the criminal justice system.



PUBLIC SAFETY

PATERSON COMMUNITY COURT

The U.S. Department of Justice through their 2022 Community Courts Initiative Grants Program awarded the City of Paterson \$600,000 to establish and operate a community court program within the Paterson Municipal Court. Spearheaded by Mayor Sayegh, the Paterson City Council, and Corporation Counsel Aymen Aboushi as a part of collective efforts to implement rehabilitative approaches to quality-of-life issues in Paterson, the Community Court will serve residents and offenders who have been charged with low-level, non-violent crimes. Alternative sanctions will be tailored to an individual's needs including access to mental health and primary care, health education, job training and placement, substance abuse treatment, community services benefits, and housing assistance. Additionally, the City plans to implement a hybrid approach to connecting defendants to substance abuse treatment and other social services by hiring dedicated, in-house case managers who can provide direct support and referrals to contracting community-based organizations and treatment providers. The City anticipates serving 125 defendants per quarter for a total of 1,750 throughout the implementation phase of the grant.

ILLEGAL VEHICLE ORDINANCE AND OPERATION CONFISCATION



Mayor Sayegh signed a local ordinance that bans the use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), dirt bikes, minibikes, snowmobiles, etc. Passed by the members of the Paterson City Council, after several complaints from residents, this ordinance allows the City to cease and destroy confiscated property. Issues with illegal vehicles include reckless driving, lack of automotive insurance, and operating unsafe vehicles on city roads.

This local legislation was passed and signed following the Paterson Police Department's launch of "Operation Confiscation." Through this initiative, several illegal vehicles have been confiscated which has also led to arrests, confiscation of illicit drugs and the incarceration of lawbreakers, which all keeps our streets safer.



PASSAGE OF BAIL REFORM LEGISLATION

Since the summer of 2021, Mayor Sayegh has called for the passage of legislation to reform the New Jersey Criminal Justice Reform Act to keep offenders who commit violent gun crimes incarcerated and off the streets until trial. In the summer of 2022, the bill was passed and signed into law. This feat would not have been possible without the many allies who collectively showed statewide bi-partisan support for this bill including but not limited to fellow Mayors, the Garden State Initiative, NJ Sheriff's Association, and State legislators such as bill sponsors Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly and Senator Joseph Cryan.

To read Mayor Sayegh's Op-Ed on this click [here](#).

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

On National Gun Violence Awareness Day, Mayor Sayegh held a walkout to stand in support and solidarity with the victims of gun violence and their friends and families. He was joined by Paterson Public School Superintendent Eileen Shafer, Corporation Counsel Aymen Aboushi, Director of Policy and Planning Ishiya Hayes, and Ivernisi Santiago mother of the late Robert Cuadra, a promising Paterson student who was sadly caught in the crossfire of a shooting.

During the walkout Mayor Sayegh signed a declaration to recognize Gun Violence Awareness Day in Paterson and vowed to continue to implement policies, programs, and practices to increase public safety in the city.



GROUNDBREAKING ON COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



Mayor André Sayegh, joined by city leaders, held a groundbreaking on Paterson's new \$6 million Communications Center. The site will streamline emergency calls and serve as home to the Emergency Dispatch Center, which will include 15 active high-tech dispatch consoles, a training room, supervision offices, a decompression area for the city's dispatchers, and American Disabilities Act accessibility. The building will also house the Office of Emergency Management, Fire/EMS, DPW, Health, Administration, and outside agencies like the American Red Cross.

The Center will be the hub for emergency logistics, storing large-scale incident supplies like surgical masks, Haz-Mat suits, gloves, post-fire recovery kits, mass casualty kits, emergency blankets, sanitary supplies, and more. Fire Chief Brian McDermott leads the project with support from Public Safety Director Jerry Speziale, Acting Police Chief Bert Ribeiro, Information Technology Director Ryan Foote, Economic Development Director Michael Powell, and Community Development Director Barbara Blake McLennon.



HONORING PATERSON'S MUNICIPAL CLERK WITH KEY TO THE CITY



After 28 years of service former Paterson Municipal Clerk Sonia Gordon retired from her position. Madam Clerk initially began her career in the City in 1995 starting as the Assistant to the Municipal Clerk and Paterson City Council, she rose to the position of Deputy Clerk in 2001, Acting Clerk in 2014, and ultimately was appointed to Municipal Clerk in 2016. In recognition of her major contributions, Mayor Sayegh along with members of the Paterson City Council honored the first Jamaican-born Municipal Clerk with the Key to the City - Paterson's highest honor.

Ms. Gordon played an integral role in the City of Paterson as she served as a chief administrative officer in all local elections, acted as secretary to the municipal corporation and the governing body, and was the liaison between the executive and the general body of municipal personnel. In addition, she was a stellar archivist as she retained the original copies of all ordinances and resolutions, prepared agendas for and attended all City Council meetings, and was the issuing officer for licenses and permits. Her contributions to the City of Paterson were endless.

Pictured alongside her daughter and Mayor Sayegh, Ms. Gordon stated that she was going to miss working as Municipal Clerk and seeing all of her colleagues, however she looked forward to her retirement to spend more time with her family.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As the most diverse municipality in the state of New Jersey, here in the city of Paterson we marvel at the opportunity to celebrate and stand beside our residents. Although our backgrounds may differ what holds us together is our passion for a city of great collective history, heritage, and pride!

LARRY DOBY DAY



Larry Doby became the first African American to play in baseball's American League (AL) on July 5th, 1947. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of Doby breaking AL's color barrier, the City of Paterson and the Paterson Division of Recreation hosted a celebration in Larry Doby Field at Eastside Park.

Organized by Director of Community Engagement Della Fischer, many joined Mayor Sayegh at the event to celebrate the legacy of this hometown hero including Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, Councilwoman Ruby Cotton, Councilwoman Dr. Lilisa Mims, Larry Doby Jr., redeveloper Baye Adofo-Wilson, and countless others including Paterson youth.



To continue the celebration long past the event attendees received Larry Doby memorabilia including posters, hats, shirts, and a booklet on his life and contributions to the American League.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

On Women's Equality Day, Mayor Sayegh joined with Senator Nellie Pou, Councilwoman Dr. Lilisa Mims, Councilwoman Ruby Cotton, Councilwoman Maritza Davila, Lauren Nance, Voter Services Chair for the League of Women Voters of Paterson, women directors and staff from Paterson City Hall, and other distinguished guests hosted a voter registration drive and press conference to call for women's equality. This event commemorated the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted women the right to vote.

Senator Pou called attention to [S247](#), legislation she co-sponsored and introduced in early 2022. The bill if passed would reduce the standard voter registration deadline to eight days before an election, allow voter registration at polling places on election day and offices where mail-in ballots are issued within 45 days before the election.



CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



To kickoff Hispanic Heritage Month, Mayor Sayegh joined with Health and Human Services Director Joel Ramirez, Chief of Staff Christian Callegari, Tax Collector Linda Broncano, Chief Financial Officer Javier Silva, Deputy Mayor Maria Del Pilar Rivas, Administrative Assistant Aracelly Calero, Secretary to the Mayor Audrey Cartright, and Constituent Services Director Javier Fernandez held a press conference



and flag raising. Additionally, the Administration has held several other celebrations including a Hispanic art showcase and a luncheon honoring 5 Hispanic leaders for their contributions in the City of Paterson including Wanda Santiago, Office Manager, Paterson Dept. of Public Works, Stanley Rodriguez, Captain, Paterson Police Dept., Jose Molina, Deputy Chief, Paterson Fire Department, Justin Carrasco, Youth Outreach Leader, and Liz Bonilla, the "Paterson Cake Lady."

HONORING PATERSON'S LONGEST SERVING PASTOR

During Clergy Appreciation Month, Mayor Sayegh presented the prestigious Key to the City to Pastor Dr. Mary Bailey. The eldest living clergy in Paterson, Pastor Bailey served her congregation with unwavering dedication for 51 years.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Bailey expressed her love for the City of Paterson, how tenaciousness has been her secret to a long healthy life, and her gratitude for God's grace. Dr. Bailey recently celebrated her 92nd birthday.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WALK

In support of those currently battling, survivors of, and those who we have lost to breast cancer, Mayor Andre Sayegh along with the staff and students at the Dr. Frank Napier School of Technology held a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. Supporters started the Walk at City Hall and ended it at the Great Falls.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS FLAG RAISING

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month Mayor André Sayegh alongside Councilwoman Ruby Cotton, Councilman Luis Velez, Francisca Nunez, community activist and advocate on domestic violence awareness, Melanie Holmes from the F.L.Y. Women's Network, and others held a flag raising to call attention to the issue of domestic violence.

Mayor Sayegh presented Francisco Nunez with a certificate of appreciation for her ongoing commitment to domestic violence awareness and her support of survivors in the City of Paterson.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



On Small Business Saturday, Mayor Sayegh, joined by Orlando Cruz, Director, Downtown Paterson Special Improvement District (SID), and members of the Paterson City Council kicked off the holiday season with Paterson's Tree Lighting Ceremony. Residents were encouraged to shop in the downtown district and enjoy live performances, pictures with

Santa, and an ice skating rink in front of City Hall. The events were sponsored by the SID and the Paterson Urban Enterprise Zone.

MENORAH LIGHTING

Mayor Sayegh alongside members of the Jewish Federation, the Israel Commission, and Councilman Velez lit the Hanukkah Menorah at Paterson City Hall for the first time.



The eight-day festival commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after a group of Jewish warriors defeated occupying Greek armies and celebrates the triumph of light over darkness as well as spirituality over materiality.

RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES

ASSISTANCE FOR PATERSON'S REENTRY POPULATION

Valaida Hall, Reintegration Services

Coordinator, works to help people returning from jail or prison transition back into society by seamlessly connecting them to the services that they need. On January 18th, 2023, Ms. Hall will join Mayor Sayegh to host the Paterson Reentry Information Forum to provide an overview of all of the services available to the reentry population, details on the event are provided below.

If you or someone you know is seeking reentry assistance, please contact Ms. Hall at vhall@patersonnj.gov or (973) 321-1561.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Iran Lisser, Director, Office of Financial Empowerment

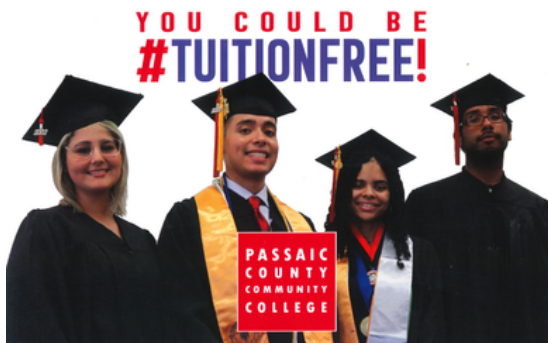
works to expand and create financial empowerment programs for residents. Through her work she supports individuals and families by helping them improve their credit scores, increase their savings, and sets them on a path to home ownership.

For financial empowerment assistance please contact Ms. Lisser at ilisser@patersonnj.gov or (973) 321-1553.



At the Paterson Reentry Initiative Information Forum, Mayor Andre Sayegh joined by Valaida Hall, Reintegration Services Coordinator will provide more information on the resources and social services that reentry individuals can access relative to obtaining an id, jobs, and housing. Also joining will be Iran Lisser, Director, Office of Financial Empowerment, and Timothy Stanley, Founder of Desir4Hope. **The event will take place on January 18th from 2 PM - 3 PM at Seminary Baptist Church located at 193 Haledon Ave., Paterson, NJ, 07522. Please RSVP to Ms. Valaida Hall at (973) 321-1561 or vhall@patersonnj.gov.**

PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S TUITION-FREE OPPORTUNITY



Passaic County Community College (PCCC) will provide free or half-off tuition for Passaic County residents who make \$80,000 or less annually.

Funding for this has been provided through the state's Community College Opportunity grant (CCOG) and generous donations from the Passaic County Community College Foundation.

Interested applicants may see if they qualify by completing the FAFSA and contacting PCCC at tuitionfree@pccc.edu or calling (973) 684-8006.

**Get a great college education
#TuitionFree @ PCCC!**

Is your income between \$0 and \$80,000 per year?
You could qualify for a NJ Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) to **cover ALL or half of your tuition.**

What if CCOG covers only half? The **PCCC Foundation will cover the rest**, so everyone who qualifies can be **#TuitionFree at PCCC!**

Learn more!

Email tuitionfree@pccc.edu or call **973-684-8006**.

Mayor André Sayegh alongside Dr. Steven M. Rose, President of Passaic County Community College (PCCC), Councilwoman Maritza Davila, and Councilman Luis Velez hosted a press conference to announce PCCC's tuition-free opportunity and encouraged Patersonians and city workers to enroll at PCCC. They were joined by Paterson resident Erica Plaza, who enrolled in classes at the College under this exciting educational opportunity!



DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION (973) 321-1370

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE (973) 321-1310

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (973) 321-1212

DIVISION OF HEALTH (973) 321-1277

ADULT HEALTH EXT. 2789

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISON CONTROL PROGRAM EXT. 2399 OR 2799

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXT. 2412

FOOD HANDLER'S COURSE EXT. 2744

HEALTH EDUCATOR EXT. 2175

HEAT HOTLINE/COOLING CENTER INFO EXT. 2757

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES "STD" CLINIC EXT. 2719 OR 2724

TB TEST CLINIC EXT. 2780 OR 2765

VITAL STATISTICS EXT. 2699

WELL BABY AND PODIATRY PROGRAM (973) 321-1277 EXT. 2739

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (973) 321-1220

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (973) 321-1350

FIRE DEPARTMENT (973) 321-1400

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (973) 321-1242

DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES (973) 653-5932

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS (973) 321-1242 EXT. 2284

SILK CITY SCHOOL BASED YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM (973) 321-0541

YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU (973) 321-1264

LAW DEPARTMENT (973) 321-1366

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL (973) 321-1323

PATERSON HOUSING AUTHORITY (973) 345-5080

PATERSON PARKING AUTHORITY (973) 977-3999

PATERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY (973) 321-1223

POLICE DEPARTMENT (973) 321-1111

PUBLIC WORKS (973) 321-1488

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MAYOR ANDRE SAYEGH

PATERSON CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Michael Jackson
First Ward

Councilman Shahin Khalique
Council President
Second Ward

Alex Mendex
Council Vice President
Third Ward

Councilwoman Ruby Cotton
Fourth Ward

Councilman Luis Velez
Fifth Ward

Alaa "Al" Abdelaziz
Sixth Ward

Councilwoman Marita Davila
Councilwoman-At-Large

Councilwoman Dr. Lilisa Mims
Councilwoman-At-Large

MD Forid Uddin
Councilman At-Large

MAYOR'S ADMINISTRATION

Kathleen Long, Business Administrator

Irma Gorham, Executive Director,
Paterson Housing Authority

Christian Callegari, Chief of Staff

Tony Perez, Executive Director,
Paterson Parking Authority

Aymen Aboushi, Corporation Counsel

Jacqueline Murray, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Corey Fleming, Director, Paterson Public Library

Michael Powell, Director, Economic Development

Ishiya Hayes, Director of Policy and Planning

Javier Silva, Chief Financial Officer

Stephanie Pabon, Director of Personnel

Barbara Blake-McLennon, Director,
Community Development

Della McCall, Director of Community Engagement

Joel Ramirez, Director, Health
& Human Services

Iran Lisser, Director,
Office of Financial Empowerment

Jerry Speziale, Public Safety Director

Dacil Tilos, Public Information Officer

Engelbert Ribeiro, Acting Chief of Police

Edward Boze, Chief Innovation Officer

Brian McDermott, Fire Chief

Valaida Hall, Reintegration Services Coordinator

William Rodriguez, Director, Public Works

Ryan Foote, Director, Information Technology

Javier Fernandez, Director, Constituent Services

Harry Cevallos, Purchasing Agent

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Paterson

Great Falls • Great Food • Great Future