

State of the City

Paterson Perseveres

March 2, 2022



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Paterson is investing **\$94 million** to restore Hinchliffe Stadium, one of only two remaining stadiums in the United States to host Negro League games. Hinchliffe Stadium served as the home to the New York Black Yankees and the New York Cubans. More importantly, Paterson legend, Larry Doby, played in Hinchliffe Stadium as the first African American baseball player in the American League. Come early Spring 2023, after thirty years of neglect, residents will once again be able to enjoy the benefits of a revitalized stadium.

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André Sayegh
Mayor

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Council President

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Council-at-Large

Flavio Rivera
Council-at-Large

Michael Jackson
First Ward

Shahin Khalique
Second Ward

Alex Mendez
Third Ward

Ruby Cotton
Fourth Ward

Luis Velez
Fifth Ward

Alaa Abdelaziz
Sixth Ward

Letter from Mayor André Sayegh

Dear Paterson,

It has been an honor to serve as your Mayor for the past four years. As a lifelong Patersonian, I take tremendous pride in being able to lead the City by implementing innovative solutions with multi-sector collaborators. Paterson, a city of potential and progress, has faced unprecedented challenges since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and no facet of City operations and daily life has been untouched. However, our City has persevered. Through inventive and well-planned strategies, we are effectively addressing the areas of health, crime and public safety, homelessness, and supporting our residents through the pandemic, all while maintaining the day-to-day operations of this great City.

My Administration and I have been able to restore trust and faith in Paterson municipal government by serving this city with the highest level of dedication and integrity. Our efforts and innovative programming have attracted national and global attention which has led to investments from major philanthropic organizations such as Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, the National League of Cities, the National Center for Health Housing, the Children & Nature Network, the Institute for Intergovernmental Research, and the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation. However, this is only the beginning of what we can accomplish together.

I look forward to building upon the success that we have already achieved, as well as making additional strides to advance the great City of Paterson!

Sincerely,

André Sayegh
André Sayegh



Paterson Perseveres

Residential Support

HIRING PATERSONIANS

Hiring locally is a key investment effort to boost our local economy, and support residents and their families. In 2021, the City hired 184 Paterson residents. There was a total of 203 new hires in 2021 and only 19 were non-Paterson residents. Over 90% of all new hires in 2021 were proud Patersonians.



PATERSON GUARANTEED INCOME PILOT PROGRAM



In the spring of 2021 the City launched this successful and best-practice proven program via partnerships with the Center for Guaranteed Income at the University of Pennsylvania, the Financial Empowerment Center, and CUMAC. Through this effort, applications were open to those eligible city-wide and ultimately 110 residents were selected to receive \$400 a month for a year. Program eligibility requirements include income limits of \$30,000 annually for a single applicant and \$88,000 annually for families.

Paterson Perseveres

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER

In June 2021, the City launched the Paterson Financial Empowerment Center (FEC). Thus far, FEC has provided over 500 counseling sessions to residents, helping them plan their financial futures. As a result, clients saw the following outcomes and improvements to their overall financial wellness:

30% reduction in delinquent bank accounts

20% accessed a public support program

17% opened a safe and affordable bank account

15% reduced non-mortgage debt by 10%

10% increased amount of set aside funds for the future

10% increased their credit score by 35 points



FREE HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

CUMAC, a local non-profit, worked with the City to provide each family receiving guaranteed income with free and healthy food essentially affording another means for cash recipients to save money.

SOUND THE ALARM

Considering the deadly fires that have recently occurred in urban communities in the tri-state area, the Paterson Fire Department is working closely with the American Red Cross to install approximately 1,000 smoke detectors in buildings located in the 4th & 5th Wards free of charge.



Paterson Perseveres

CODE BLUE

Our Health and Human Services Department has continued to care for the homeless by placing them in warming centers when the temperature is below freezing. During a Code Blue, the Office of Emergency Management and the Paterson Fire Department also ensures our homeless population has a cot, blanket, and other essentials when in our care. These lifesaving efforts occur via a partnership with the City and the County of Passaic Department of Human Services.



DRIVERS LICENSE PROGRAM

DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTORATION PILOT PROGRAM

The City launched a Driver's License Restoration pilot to help residents restore their drivers' licenses. The program considers barriers that can prevent license restoration including the inability to pay fines and surcharges and lack of insurance coverage. The City then works with residents to provide solutions, such as providing funds for fines, dismissing tickets, and license restoration after a certain amount of payments have been made.

Paterson Perseveres

COVID-19



The coronavirus pandemic is one of the most unprecedented challenges Paterson has faced in its 231-year history, and the City collectively, along with residents and non-profit organizations, responded to the various issues that arose by implementing model interventions. The City addressed and continues to address this once-in-a-lifetime reality with collective efforts that show the dignity and true pride of Patersonians.

High Vaccination Rate

The City has the highest adult vaccination rate in the state of New Jersey. Additionally, the City has one of the highest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the state among residents 12-18 years old. According to NJ Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli, 97.5% of this segment of the population received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 81.5% of this group completed their primary vaccine series. In a recent competition to increase vaccinations amongst residents, Paterson bested the City of Trenton.

Paterson Perseveres



COVID-19 MOBILE UNIT FOR TESTING AND VACCINES

The Paterson Department of Health and Human Services operates our mobile unit to grant residents access to coronavirus testing and vaccines in each ward. All insurance is accepted, and no resident is turned away if they are uninsured.

MASK MANDATE

During the first wave of COVID, Mayor Sayegh was one of the first to implement a mask mandate to protect our employees and residents. In efforts to curb the recent rising number of Omicron cases, the Mayor re-implemented a mask mandate in all city-operated workplaces.



HAND-SANITIZER AND MASK GIVEAWAYS

Mayor Sayegh, in partnership with Paterson-based business Protective Health Gear and the Rotary Club of Paterson, has distributed hundreds of masks and over 780 gallons of hand sanitizer to the community. This PPE has aided in protecting countless Patersonians and their families.



Paterson Public Safety

Cities across the country are experiencing the most precipitous increase in crime in decades. Additionally, the pandemic has affected residents' mental health and aggression. However, this Administration has taken significant steps to ensure the safety of Patersonians while simultaneously improving relations between the community and law enforcement.



SHOT SPOTTER AND CRISIS INTERVENTION INVESTMENTS

Mayor Sayegh welcomed Governor Murphy, Congressman Pascrell, and former Acting Attorney General Bruck to the City of Paterson to announce a **\$7 million** investment in software technology upgrades throughout the state. The Paterson Police Department is one of the state's local law enforcement departments selected to receive funding for shot spotter technology, which can identify where a gun was fired in the City. Two of the many non-profits that engage in violence prevention work in Paterson and the surrounding areas, Reimagining Justice and the Juvenile Education and Awareness Project collectively received nearly **\$1 million** in investment from the state to support their efforts.



DEESCALATION

In an effort to rebuild trust, an Executive Order was issued to create a De-escalation Task Force comprised of civilians and community leaders. The Task Force members will complete training in evidence-based policy research, conduct public meetings, review an annual deescalation performance audit, and serve as advisors to the Mayor and Public Safety Director.

Paterson Public Safety



POLICE OFFICERS

Incremental awards from the COPS Hiring Program have resulted in **\$5.7 million** in funding towards increasing our police department to 439 officers, the most officers the City will have in over ten years. Additionally, in December 2021, the Mayor swore in the largest police class in over a decade.



GUNS RECOVERED

In 2021, our Paterson police Department seized the most guns since tracking this data, recovering 219 guns. Identifying and removing firearms from our streets is key to reducing gun violence.

Paterson Public Safety

CRIME INTELLIGENCE CENTER

With help from a myriad of law enforcement partners, we are proud to announce that Paterson was awarded **\$700,000** to establish the State's first and only Crime Intelligence Center. The federally funded center will help the Paterson Police Department prevent and combat gun violence in Paterson and the surrounding area.



BLOOMBERG MAYOR'S CHALLENGE

Bloomberg Philanthropies has awarded the City **\$1 million** to launch "RealFix", a previously piloted program that provides individuals experiencing withdrawals Medically-Assisted Treatment anytime, anywhere within 90-minutes. After providing treatment, residents will be connected with a counselor to be put on a path to sobriety. Paterson was one of 631 cities that applied for the **\$1 million** grant, and 1 of 15 winners.

OPIOID RESPONSE TEAM (ORT)

In 2021, the Opioid Response Team was created in Paterson. The ORT is a city-led initiative comprised of emergency medical technicians, substance-abuse recovery advocates, firefighters, police officers, and social workers who respond to overdoses, narcotics arrests, and drug-related emergency calls. To date, the ORT program has resulted in 530 referrals for help. After receiving a referral, the team then connects the individual with substance abuse professionals. In 2022, the team will be expanding its intervention activities to assure that those falling through the cracks are engaged and offered a path to sobriety.

Paterson Progresses

Economic and Community Development

The Sayegh Administration has secured over **\$800 million** in investments to the City. Some of these major redevelopment projects include:

Over the past four years, the City has implemented numerous initiatives and ground-breaking investments to increase economic development and community engagement. These efforts are making Paterson the premiere tourist-friendly urban hub in this region of the state, where citizens can also benefit from the significant economic activity.



FORMER LEADER DYE SITE



The Sayegh Administration has prioritized transforming derelict properties into valuable assets that revitalize neighborhoods. At the former Leader Dye site, the location will be remediated and transformed into a state-of-the-art school. This nearly two-acre lot sold for **\$7.6 million**, increasing the City's revenue, removing a brownfield site, and creating educational opportunities for the neighborhood's school-aged children.

GROMEX RELOCATION

Beginning in fall 2022, construction will commence at the former Pathmark site to house the largest food distributor in the northeast U.S. This **\$10 million** project will create between 65-100 jobs in the City and provide food products to local restaurants, bodegas, and markets.



Paterson Progresses

GREAT FALLS REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Naturally created during the last ice age 13,000 years ago, the Great Falls of the Passaic River is the region's quintessential wonder of the world. The City has plans to invest **\$50 million** in revitalization efforts to this National Natural Landmark District. Improvements will include a newly constructed Alexander Hamilton Education & Visitor Center, a mixed-use parking structure, 74 units of senior housing, and the New Jersey Community Development Corporation's Youth Performing Arts Center, which will provide free arts education to Paterson's youth.



HINCHLIFFE STADIUM

In ruins for nearly three decades, the Sayegh Administration is investing **\$94 million** to restore Hinchcliffe Stadium, the last standing Negro Baseball League stadium in the northeast. This restoration will allow the community to highlight record-breaking African American heroes nationwide, including Paterson's own Larry Doby – the first black player to integrate the American League of Professional Baseball Clubs. Our City takes pride in the social justice role Hinchcliffe Stadium played in our nation's history.

Paterson Progresses



ARGUS MILL/GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

This innovative **\$40 million** housing development, designed by a diverse group of developers with the community in mind, will provide units for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

WARD STREET GARAGE REPLACEMENT & TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AT THE PATERSON TRAIN STATION

A collective **\$30 million** of investments will go into this project to improve the city's transit experience and serve as a hub for redevelopment.



FILMING

The film industry has proven to be an engine for economic growth, leading to jobs for residents and customers for our small businesses. Over the past four years, the City of Paterson has attracted over 36 film productions. *West Side Story*, directed by the great Steven Spielberg, spent approximately **\$15 million** in the City, according to the New Jersey Film Commission. *The Trial of the Chicago 7* was also filmed in the City, where approximately **\$10 million** was spent here in Paterson. In addition to attracting the film industry, the City was able to successfully co-host a "Film Boot Camp" with NBC Studios, where 30 residents were trained on the basics of the film business.



Paterson Progresses

Environmental Improvements and Sustainability

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY BRONZE CERTIFICATION

In 2021 Sustainable Jersey certified the City of Paterson Bronze for its many efforts in increasing environmentally-friendly initiatives.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The City invested over **\$800,000** towards the development of a 42-vehicle fleet for city employees. Inspectors in the Health, Economic/Community Development, Community Improvement, and Fire departments will operate the vehicles to travel to inspection sites and handle other city business. The City will construct multiple charging stations, the first of its kind in Paterson, to charge the vehicles; public access to the charging stations will also be granted.

GREEN TEAM



Mayor Sayegh created the City's first Green Team, a collective of environmentally-friendly residents to focus on increasing sustainability in the city.

1st ANNUAL GREEN FAIR

Designed to promote health, wellness, and teach the community how to make Paterson a greener city, the Administration held the City's first-ever Green Fair in partnership with the Green Team. This eventful day was full of hands-on activities, good food, entertainment, and it connected residents with community organizations to receive much-needed resources.

SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

The Administration designated **\$7,000,000** of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to mitigate the City's combined sewer overflow (CSO) issues. When it rains, River Street will finally be more street than river. The Mayor continues to work with statewide partners to advocate for funding to mitigate the city's CSO issues.

Paterson Progresses

Parks and Open Spaces



PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The administration has created a comprehensive plan entitled *Parks & Open Space Vision 2021*. This plan outlines how to design and maintain the City's open spaces to support economic growth, health, environmental protection and flood prevention, education, and community development. With nearly 50 parks citywide, and very few spaces for new open space development, the Sayegh Administration is dedicated to improving the City's park inventory. In partnership with the City Council, Mayor Sayegh has invested over **\$6 million** in Paterson parks from various sources, including federal, state, and county grants, as well as capital bonds. This includes over **\$2 million** in 2021 alone.

Flagship parks and open spaces that are currently slated for improvements include:

- Eastside Park
- Westside Park
- Riverside Oval
- Pennington Park
- Great Falls and Vista Park
- Ray Lyde Field
(formerly Putnam Oval)
- Inclusive Playgrounds: Roberto Clemente & Lou Costello Park
- Dr. Gerald Glisson Fieldhouse (formerly Bauerle Fieldhouse)



Paterson Progresses

SUPPORTING “PARK-POOR NEIGHBORHOODS”

Although vacant land in Paterson is limited, the City recognizes opportunities to strategically add parks to major redevelopment projects. Currently, 17% of Patersonians are further than a 10-minute walk from a Park and this Administration has pledged to work diligently until all residents have access to a park within walking distance. This includes collaborations with the Paterson Public Schools around potential “Green Schoolyards.” Some projects that will include the development of more parks and open spaces are Quarry Lawn and the former Allied Textile Printing (ATP) site.



ADVANCING A CITYWIDE PASSAIC RIVER GREENWAY

The City has a significant opportunity to enhance the riverfront and plans to implement a continuous half-mile greenway along the Passaic River near the Northside neighborhood. Efforts to complete this task will be done in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity Paterson and the NJ Chapter of the American Planning Association.

ADDING FACILITIES TO MEET CITY-WIDE NEEDS

Paterson is one of a few cities of its size without a recreational center. To address this, the City plans to allocate American Rescue Plan funds to build a state-of-the-art municipal recreational center in which the City’s youth can partake in constructive activities year-round. Additionally, the City intends to increase other types of recreational facilities to provide places for more recreational activities citywide, including:

- Soccer and cricket fields
- Basketball courts
- Fitness zones

Paterson Progresses

Financial Stability and Public Sector Investments

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Mayor Sayegh continued his fiscally sound leadership, utilizing federal CARES grant dollars to support COVID-19 related expenses, including covering the cost of the redeployment of city workers that focused on the COVID-19 response. This allowed the City to absorb additional expenses and make up for decreases in revenue without placing the burden on City taxpayers. Additionally, the Administration worked with the State of New Jersey to realign the City's fiscal year to a calendar year, which led to no municipal tax increase for homeowners in 2021.



TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS

With a focus on government efficiency and better resident service, Mayor Sayegh has made major investments in upgrading the city's technology infrastructure. Totalling over **\$2.5 million**, including over **\$500,000** in CARES grant funding, this funding supports an updated computer aided dispatch (CAD) system and communications center, citywide server improvements, online permitting technology for code enforcement, additional security and street cameras, upgrades to the police IT network, telework technology and infrastructure, and other technology upgrades.

Paterson Progresses

VEHICLE AND FACILITY INVESTMENTS

Mayor Sayegh inherited a crumbling vehicle fleet and historic, yet aging, facilities. Beginning in 2018, the Administration created five-year capital plans that prioritized departments previously left behind. Some of these investments include:

- The Department of Public Works has received over **\$4.5 million** for vehicle investments, with close to **\$2 million** in 2021 alone from bonding, supplemental state aid, and operating surplus. These purchases range from crew trucks for employees to multiple snow and sewer trucks to specialized equipment like patch trucks, chippers, front and rear end loaders, platform trucks and mowers.
- Mayor Sayegh invested over **\$3.5 million** in facility improvements citywide, including over **\$1 million** in CARES grant funding between 2020 and 2021 for thermal cameras, bipolar ionization units for HVAC units, and plexiglass improvements, all with a focus on employee and visitor health and safety.
- Mayor Sayegh also made over **\$6 million** in police, fire, and OEM investments, including **\$1.3 million** in CARES grant funding between 2020-2021, ranging from fire engines to ambulances, from logistics vehicles to high water vehicles, from vehicle repair lifts to motor pool tools, from specialized police cameras to police vehicles.
- With an eye toward the future, Mayor Sayegh has also committed over **\$1.2 million** in bond and supplemental state aid funding toward electrifying the city fleet and building an electric vehicle infrastructure for both the public sector and public use. The Sayegh Administration continues to work with the Murphy Administration on additional funding opportunities to complement this first round of investments.

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