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## **MAYOR REDD SWEARS-IN 55 POLICE OFFICERS AND 31 FIREFIGHTERS**

**CAMDEN** – Reaffirming her commitment to public safety, Mayor Dana L. Redd today swore-in 55 police officers and 31 firefighters who were laid-off on January 18, 2011. The rehiring of the 86 public safety personnel positions was made possible following an agreement with the administration of Governor Chris Christie that will make \$2.5 million available to the City from a South Jersey Port P.I.L.O.T. and from a SAFER grant the City received from FEMA.

“With the return of 55 Camden police officers and 31 Fire personnel, I fully expect that all boots will hit the ground and that their presence will be known and felt throughout our neighborhoods and business districts,” **Mayor Redd said**. “Today, we demonstrate to every resident and business that we love our great City and we will do what is necessary to keep her safe and make it a place we are all proud to call home.”

The decision to rehire police officers and firefighters was made for the benefit of Camden City residents. While the City was not able to secure concessions from union leaders, and the Mayor’s budget was defeated which would have restored even more public safety personnel, Mayor Redd continued to seek solutions to address public safety in the City of Camden.

“I truly thank Governor Christie, Senators Menendez and Lautenberg, and Congressman Andrews for working with my Administration to secure the necessary state and federal funds to rehire police and fire personnel,” **Mayor Redd said**. “Our commitment to Camden and the public safety of our residents should send a clear message to the criminals looking to deteriorate our quality of life – we will not give up and we will fight for our great City.”

“I thank Governor Christie and FEMA for their continued dedication to the City of Camden. With these additional state and federal funds, the City will now have 20 percent more police officers patrolling the streets and nearly the same number of firefighters responding to emergencies since the layoffs. However, we must continue to pursue every option to get the departments back to where they were in January,” **said Congressman Rob Andrews**. “The City cannot bounce back until we can fully address the public safety needs of those living, doing business, and studying in the neighborhood – and the 86 men and women returning to uniform today will help in that revitalization.”

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