



Office of the Mayor
520 Market Street
Camden, New Jersey 08101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: July 11, 2011

CONTACT: Robert Corrales
PHONE: 856-757-7200

MAYOR REDD APPOINTS NEW POLICE DIRECTOR

Police Director And Police Chief Will Work Together To Enhance Public Safety

CAMDEN – Continuing her efforts to enhance public safety operations in the City of Camden, Mayor Dana L. Redd today appointed Lanuel J. Ferguson as the new Police Director of the Camden Police Department.

“We are truly facing some unprecedented times in the City of Camden,” Mayor Redd said. “With the recent warehouse fires and senseless act of violence where a nine year old was shot, we must shift the paradigm of public safety and engage leaders who have the ability, depth, breath, and experience in law enforcement to help us through these challenging times. That is why I asked Mr. Ferguson to work as a member of my Administration. I am confident that Police Director Ferguson and Chief Thomson will establish a new and improved public safety model that can be emulated in other urban centers.”

Police Director Ferguson will provide Mayor Redd’s Administration with cohesive strategic policy and administrative initiatives for the Police Department that are cost effective, ensure the public’s safety, and the safety of our law enforcement officers.

“I am truly honored that Mayor Redd has asked me to join her Administration and work alongside Chief Thomson to serve the residents and businesses of Camden,” Police Director Ferguson said. “I can think of no more rewarding challenge than to assist in the Mayor’s ongoing effort to ensure the safety and well being of Camden’s residents.”

Working along with Police Director Ferguson, Police Chief John S. Thomson will continue to run the day-to-day operations of the Police Department. With a central focus on operations and deployment, the Chief will be able to make sure all available officers are on the streets of Camden protecting the residents and the central and neighborhood business districts.

“I look forward to working with Police Director Ferguson to further strengthen the Police Department’s mission to reduce the number of crime victims and make our residents feel safe,” Police Chief Thomson said.

(more)

Mr. Ferguson will bring nearly 30 years of public safety experience to the position. Mr. Ferguson retired from the New Jersey State Police with the rank of Major in 2005 after 27 of dedicated service. During his career with the New Jersey State Police, Mr. Ferguson held several senior command and supervisory positions including:

- Troop “C” Commander – Managed the multi-million dollar and state-of-the-art Troop “C” Headquarters complex. Responsibilities included coordination, directing and controlling a full-time general police and investigative response to 20 communities.
- Troop “D” Commander – Evaluated and reviewed the merger of Troop “D” and “E” under one authority.
- Troop “A” Commander – Evaluated and reviewed incidents of racial and gender bias complaints within the southern regional command and developed corrective measures.
- Security Operations Unit Supervisor – Responsibilities included supervision of the general police presence within the State Government Complex; monitoring of security, fire, and life support systems; evaluated and reviewed existing security plans.
- Instructor: New Jersey State Police Training Bureau – Provided advanced and in-service training for federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement officers.

After retiring from the New Jersey State Police, Mr. Ferguson held the position of Interim Public Safety Director for the City of Bridgeton in 2007. Most recently, Mr. Ferguson was the Director of Security Operations for the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, New Jersey and an instructor for Camp Fire USA. Prior to entering into law enforcement, Mr. Ferguson was a Health and Physical Education teacher and a football and basketball coach in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

“Any support to assist our Police Department concentrate on patrolling our neighborhoods is welcomed news,” North Camden resident Rodney Sadler said. “Mayor Redd should truly be commended for her leadership and commitment towards finding solutions that will enhance public safety in Camden.”

Mayor Redd will also appoint Mr. Ferguson as the Administration’s representative to serve on the County Police Committee on Regionalization. He will report back to the Mayor on ways which regionalization can potentially benefit the City of Camden. While the Mayor has embraced exploring a new paradigm of shared services and regionalization to provide public safety services in the City of Camden, she has pointed out that any plan for regionalized public safety must address key factors such as:

- enhancement or expansion of public safety services in Camden City;
- must be cost effective and efficient;
- create job opportunities for City residents; and
- be fair to the existing Police Department personnel while working within fiscal constraints.

(more)

“My top concern is sustaining, improving, and advancing public safety services in the City of Camden,” Mayor Redd said. “Our residents deserve the very best public safety services while we continue to find ways to operate within our fiscal constraints. Police Director Ferguson will help advise me and my Administration through all the details that have to be sorted through with regionalization.”

The Mayor was joined by numerous faith-based leaders, business owners, and resident leaders – all who have expressed their support in her efforts to enhance public safety in the City of Camden. Supporters included: Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens; Pastor John O. Parker, Jr, of Antioch Baptist Church; Reverend Hiram Garcia, President of the Hispanic Pentecostal Ministers Association; Reverend Dr. Silas M. Townsend from St. John Baptist Church; Reverend Al Stewart from Camden Rescue Mission; Pastor J.A. Jones from First Nazarene Baptist Church; Corrine Bradley, owner of Corrine’s Restaurant; Gloria Smith of Genesis School of Business; Clarence Bagwell from State Street Housing; Rodney Sadler from Save Our Waterfront; Dr. Maria Marquez, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Camden; Dr. Bessie LaFre Young, Camden City Superintendent of Schools; Kathryn Blackshear, Board of Education member; Chairman Angel Alamo of the Camden Parking Authority; Resident Fiscal Advisory Board members Colandus “Kelly” Francis, Thomas Rapacki, Jr., and Delores Showell; retired Camden City police officer Pierre Robinson; resident leaders Delbert Nelson and Dorothy A. Burley; and members of the American Legion Post 473 Color Guard.

Public safety has remained a top priority for Mayor Redd. To date, Mayor Redd was able to rehire 74 police officers and 31 firefighters who were laid-off on January 18, 2011 by working with federal and state officials.

###