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**MAYOR REDD ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE TO “RE-LIGHT”
TWO CAMDEN NEIGHBORHOODS**

*Initial Plan Will Be Conducted In Two Phases; First Phase To “Re-Light” Two
Neighborhoods And Second Phase To Create GIS Mapping Of All Street Lights*

CAMDEN – Reaffirming her commitment to public and community safety, Mayor Dana L. Redd, joined by Rick Thigpen, Vice-President of Government Affairs and Michael Coyle, Regional Public Affairs Manager of PSE&G, today announced a two phase initiative to “re-light” Camden neighborhood streets.

“During my many conversations with Camden families and from my own experience while on my community patrols, I know that there is a major community safety concern on the minds of our residents,” Mayor Redd said. “That concern is having lighted streets. While having unlit streets may seem small or insignificant to some, to the parents who have young children walking home from school or from basketball practice, it is a big deal and it is a big deal for me. That is why my Administration contacted PSE&G and we worked in partnership to develop a two phase plan that will initially ‘re-light’ two neighborhoods and work on creating an extensive GIS map of all our functioning and non-functioning street lights in Camden.”

The first phase will consist of PSE&G replacing and/or repairing street lights in two neighborhoods of the City where theft and vandalism are prevalent – about 30 lights on State Street in North Camden and 20 lights on Park Boulevard in Parkside. The repairs will also include additional precautions to deter future theft of the heavily sought out materials within the lampposts. Phase Two would consist of creating an extensive inventory through GIS mapping of our street lights that need to be replaced or repaired.

As part of the program, two seventh grade students from Cooper’s Poynt School recited a community pledge to help keep an eye on our street lights and another seventh grade student preformed a rap song.

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The Mayor was also joined by Tom Fanelle from R. Fanelle's Sons – Scrap Iron and Metal Yard. Mr. Fanelle pledged to support the City's initiative by not buying or accepting stolen scrap materials from light posts. Andrew Kricun, Executive Director of the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority, was also present and gave his support for the initiative. Also in attendance was Camden County Prosecutor Warren Faulk, Assemblyman Gilbert "Whip" Wilson," Camden City Council members Dana Burley and Deborah Person-Polk, Camden Board of Education President Susan Dunbar-Bey, Camden Deputy School Superintendent Reuben Mills, and Camden Police Chief John S. Thomson.

Public and community safety has been the Mayor's top priority since taking office. Mayor Redd has worked hard and in partnership with federal, State, County, and private sector partners to find workable solutions in enhancing public safety in Camden. The Mayor's collaborative efforts have allowed the City to rehire nearly 60% of laid-off police officers; made sure the Eye in the Sky camera program was installed and even expanded; secure a state of the art Mobile Command Unit – with a second unit to be deployed within the very near future; and ensured Camden received funding to expand the shot spotter system.

"We are all in this together and we all have a role to play in moving Camden forward," Mayor Redd said. "While our police department will do everything possible to catch and prevent any vandalism to our street lights, I am urging residents to also stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity they observe in their neighborhoods. If you see people in unmarked vehicles working on or around our streetlights, you should immediately call 9-1-1."

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