



STATE *of the* CITY

2025 Report

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Baraka", is positioned above the name of the Mayor.

Mayor Ras J. Baraka

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City of Newark

Ras J. Baraka
Mayor

Municipal Council

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Council President/
Council Member-at-Large

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Council Member-at-Large

Patrick O. Council
Council Member, South Ward

Anibal Ramos, Jr.
Council Member, North Ward

Carlos M. Gonzalez
Council Member-at-Large

Louise Scott-Rountree
Council Member-at-Large

Dupré L. Kelly
Council Member, West Ward

Michael J. Silva
Council Member, East Ward

Mayor's Message

Dear Friend,

For the last 11 years, our entire administration and staff have leveraged hard data and research to formulate expert programs that have made massive improvements to our quality of life. We create and execute what has become recognized, globally, as best practices in almost every facet of municipal government. And our secret for success: a unity and sense of belonging that makes collaboration and cooperation second nature in Newark.

This past year, our accomplishments together as a community were immense and far-reaching. Our network of neighbors, social services providers and public safety professionals lowered homicides another 23 percent, to the lowest point it's been since 1952. We increased jobs by 43 percent and saw a 10 percent increase in Summer Youth Employment Program enrollments. We hired 48 police and 80 firefighter recruits to protect and serve our residents. We bolstered our community support with a new downtown precinct and the William Mobile Ashby Community Care & Training Center, the state's only public safety training headquarters designed to share space with our neighborhoods.

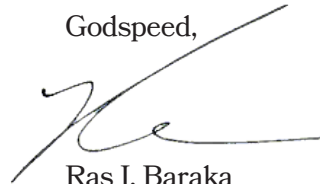
Focusing on our people and their comprehensive wellbeing, we partnered with Uber Health and Robert Wood Johnson Health to transport 6,605 patients to and from medical appointments. We approved 1,381 affordable housing units citywide, and continued to provide residents without addresses with "The Pathway Home" to permanent housing, jobs, medical care, and personal empowerment. Our Summer Safety Initiative featured a robust array of youth-oriented programs and services, combined with a juvenile curfew engagement outreach, to fill summertime with more fun, safety, growth, and development for our kids.

Newark's Moody's rating was upgraded, reflecting a positive trajectory of its financial and operational health. Riverfront Park and Fairmount Heights Children's Village Park now lure Newarkers as new venues for recreation and relaxation. The city's first Poet Laureate inspires a new generation of writers. Building facades throughout our wards are fresh canvases for large-scale art. A citywide tree canopy begins to sprout from our sidewalks. A public/private/workforce development collaboration made Wi-Fi accessible at the lowest cost possible to 1,600 residential units.

These, and many more achievements in this booklet, are part of today's Newark, a dynamic, vibrant city setting standards with a limitless imagination, and a boundless dedication to our residents. Our "Newark vibe" is resulting in a surge of new business and waves of visitors seeking our city's diverse adventures.

Together, because of you, we are NEWARK AND PROUD OF IT!

Godspeed,



Ras J. Baraka
Mayor





Swearing-in Ceremony for 40 new Police Officers in June

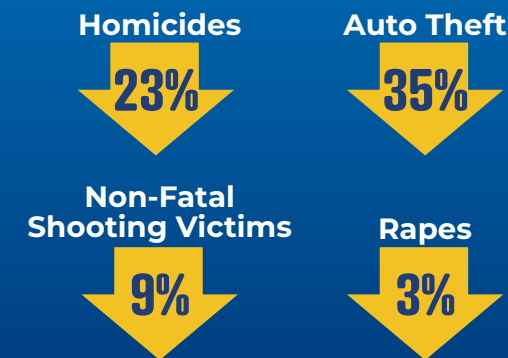
Protecting the City and Serving Its Communities

Newark's Public Safety Department is comprised of the Newark Police and Fire divisions and the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Preparedness. These highlights offer a glimpse into how the City ensures the safety and security of its residents.

2024 Highlights: Newark Public Safety Department

- Added **detectives and a supervisor** to both the Robbery Squad and the Shooting Response Team.
- Added **uniformed officers and plain-clothes detectives** to the City's crime suppression units in the East and North Wards.
- Hired **48 police recruits** and promoted **26 lieutenants and 28 sergeants**.
- Hired **80 firefighter recruits** and promoted **16 battalion chiefs and 26 captains**.
- Newark Firefighters donated **350 bookbags of school supplies** during the Bookbag Drive Cookout.
- Opened the **Metro/9th Precinct** downtown.

2024 Public Safety Numbers Compared to 2023



A Better-equipped Public Safety Division

- Opened the **William Mobile Ashby Community Care & Training Center**, a unique shared space for the community that also serves as a training hub for police officers, firefighters, and social workers.
- Re-established the state-certified **Newark Police Academy**, which returned after a 15-year absence. The state-of-the-art facility features the latest technology, including a 300-degree virtual, immersive, and interactive training system.
- Implemented the use of **automatic license plate readers**.
- Received a grant to upgrade the **Emergency Operations Center and Real Time Crime Center**.
- Began transitioning to a **digital radio communication system** for the Police and Fire divisions.

Crisis Intervention, Trauma Recovery, and Community Engagement



OVPTR and BCPC conference

The Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery (OVPTR) seeks to improve the quality of life for Newark residents by reimagining public safety and public health as tools to address the underlying causes of violence, not just its consequences.

- OVPTR fielded more than **2,800 client referrals** from Newark's Police Department.
- **Invested \$13M** in Community Partner Capacity and funded **37 community organizations** to provide specified trauma-based support to City residents.
- Launched the **Summer Safety Initiative**,

featuring robust programs and fun events for youth, and the **Summer of Hope**, an initiative that provides programming in "hot spot" areas of crime.

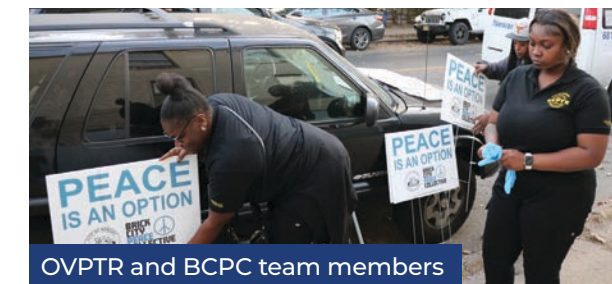
- The Summer Safety Initiative also enforced a juvenile curfew for those under 18, **engaging more than 760 youth**. Throughout the duration of the Initiative, **youth arrests were down 7%**.
- **Brick City Peace Collective (BCPC)** served **50 high-risk youth** through their **Peace Academy**. The Academy focused on self-awareness, healing, and leadership.
- **BCPC** helped **60 students graduate debt-free** through their **Guaranteed Education Program**.
- **BCPC** was awarded the **Silver Certification from Bloomberg Philanthropies** for their data-driven public safety model.

2023 vs 2024 Public Safety Increases



In 2024, Office of Homeless Services:

- Launched the second iteration of **New Hope Village** designed to provide low-barrier housing to unsheltered residents.
- Acquired an **8,765 sq. ft. condominium unit** for \$2.5M to create a state-of-the-art drop-in and resource center.
- **Invested \$6M** to launch the Path Home housing program, which designates 200 public housing units as transitional housing for the City's chronically homeless.
- Formed a **Clinical Downtown Outreach Team** to provide stabilizing psychiatric street treatment to unhoused residents in Newark's downtown.
- Launched a **new 24/7 outreach program** to expand coverage across the City, including Newark NJ Transit stations.
- Created the **state's first mobile street medicine initiative** to address the medical, substance use, and mental health needs of unhoused residents.



OVPTR and BCPC team members



Hope Village II unveiling and ribbon cutting in 2024



CariBBrew Café ribbon cutting

Increasing Affordable Housing and Business Growth

For more than 10 years, Mayor Ras J. Baraka's Equitable Growth Strategy has made Newark a leader in affordability with many different initiatives to create and keep housing affordable for city residents.

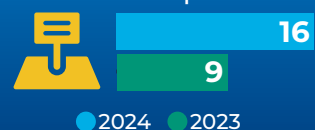
Key 2024 Highlights:

- **505 affordable units** received Certificates of Occupancy by the end of 2024, with **1,381 affordable units approved** citywide.
- **Newark Housing Tracker was launched**, enhancing transparency in the City's affordable housing pipeline.
- **124 city-owned properties** were sold, generating **\$3.6M in revenue** to fund future housing projects.

- The City was awarded a **\$4M Housing and Urban Development grant** to support **Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance (IZO)** compliance and housing affordability initiatives.
- **Live Newark Program** was expanded, awarding **54 home improvement grants and 20 closing cost grants**, boosting homeownership.
- **Equitable Investments in Newark Communities program** awarded 48 parcels to 16 community-based developers, creating **374 new affordable units**.
- Newark's IZO program, **First Dibs**, ensured that **more than 80%** of the IZO units produced are housing Newark residents (188 units in 11 projects).

2024
Invest Newark
Real Estate

Land Bank Properties Sold



Dollars Spent with MWBEs



Coached
100
Home-buying
Seminar
Attendees

Spent
\$2.8M
In the Local
Community

Invest Newark was approved by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to receive **\$500K** to increase its lending capacity, and led an effort to secure **\$7M** from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to support Newark Symphony Hall, Lincoln Park, and beautify the south end of Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson Boulevard (formerly Broad Street).

In 2024, Invest Newark:

- Awarded **\$3.6M** in retail reactivation grants.
- Trained **599 business owners** across **16 educational programs**.



Retail Reactivation grant announcement

- Won more than **\$5M** in Urban Enterprise Zone funding to support streetscape improvements, loan and grant funds, corridor maintenance, and more.



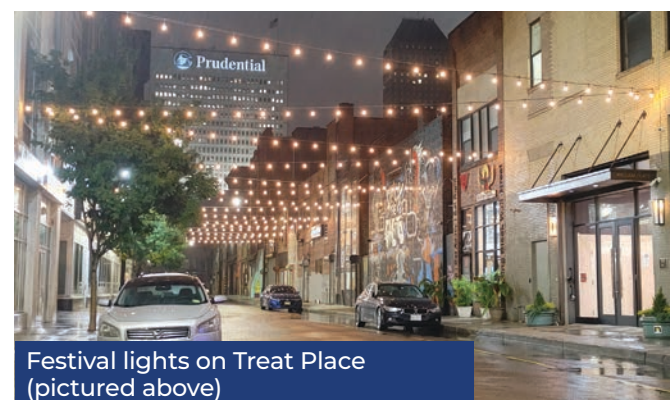
Exploring career pathways in new technologies.

Increasing Jobs

- Between 2023 and 2024, NewarkWORKS/ Newark Workforce Development Board experienced an **increase of 43.1%** in job placements and a **10% increase** in Summer Youth Employment Program enrollments.
- Newark is **one of 16 cities nationwide** participating in the Good Jobs, Great Cities Academy.

60 The number of restaurants that participated in Newark's Restaurant Week, Oct 25th to Nov 3rd

1,099 The number of times the new Newark Restaurant Week Digital Pass was downloaded



Festival lights on Treat Place (pictured above)

Newark Downtown District

- The district worked with PSE&G to replace 2,600 halogen streetlights with LED lighting, resulting in a 35% decrease in violent crime.
- The installation of festival lights on Halsey Street and Treat Place has attributed to an increase in foot traffic.

The City of Newark's Changing Skyline

Iconiq 777 is a project by Shaquille O'Neal and Boraie Development. This 33-story, 370-unit building is located across from Penn Station and has reserved 20% of the units for affordable housing. It was completed in 2023.

One Theater Square is across from NJPAC. It was the first newly-built highrise apartment building in the City of Newark in more than 50 years. It was completed in 2018.

Halo Newark will be a three-tower residential skyscraper complex, located on Washington St, and will feature 950 apartments, with 20% designated as "affordable" in accordance with the city's inclusionary zoning ordinance.

Prudential Tower is across from Military Park. This \$444M project features a 20-story glass tower consisting of two buildings. Completed in 2015.

55 Union is a 12-story mixed-use building in the Ironbound district across from Penn Station. It includes 403 units and 190 parking spaces. It was completed in 2023.

930 McCarter Highway is a 25-story residential building with 265 market-rate units and 68 affordable units. It is projected to be completed in 2026.

NJPAC Campus Expansion will include shops, restaurants, outdoor space, and a 350-unit apartment building with 70 affordable units. It is projected to be completed in fall 2027.

50 Rector Park is a collaboration by Newark native Shaquille O'Neal and Boraie Development. Considered the first market-rate apartment building built in Newark in more than 50 years. It was completed in 2019.

"When we say we are the state's largest city, what we mean is that more people choose Newark as their home than any other community in New Jersey. That's a big responsibility, and a huge honor. It makes us stand taller and hold our ground as a citywide administration fiercely dedicated to more than 300,000 people – including you."

— Mayor Ras J. Baraka



Rachel Fawn Alban

Newark ranked No. 8 among the Top 20 Most Arts-Vibrant Large Communities in the U.S.



Making Newark a Better City in Which to Live and Play

The City's mission is to provide programming, events, and activities that support academic growth, community development, and health and fitness.

Department of Recreation, Cultural Affairs, and Senior Services

- **Kaboom Park** was completed and the City of Newark won the **New Jersey Recreation & Park Association Playground Design Award** for Hunterdon Park & Playground (Chamblee Square Park).
- In Summer 2024, **9,502 patrons** used Newark's public pools.
- The **Newark Soulful Seniors Ensemble** was formed, along with the City of Newark Division of Senior Services, and the Leaders 4Life Academy, consisting of members 55 and older.

Newark People's Assembly

- **1,000 doorbell cameras** were purchased for the Doorbell Camera Initiative, which seeks to empower communities to organize against crime. The initiative has encouraged the formation of **50 new block associations** and re-engaged inactive ones.
- More than **15 neighborhoods** have been involved in the city-wide Community Clean-up initiative so far, and more than **five tons of garbage have been collected** from city blocks, corridors and public parks.
- **Phase C of Riverfront Park opened**, adding new public spaces, an amphitheater, and food kiosks to revitalize the waterfront.

2024 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| ■ Alvin Ailey Dance Company | ■ New Jersey Institute of Technology | ■ Trust for Public Land |
| ■ Bethany Baptist Church | ■ New Jersey Recreation & Parks Association | ■ Tyhir Whitehead Annual Summer Football Camp |
| ■ Ice skating rink at Sharpe James/Kenneth A. Gibson Recreation Center | ■ Newark Parks Foundation | ■ UFC Mixed Martial Arts |
| ■ Ironbound Boxing | ■ Newark Pop Warner Football | ■ University Hospital |
| ■ Kris Foundation/Temple of Hip Hop | ■ NJ Hammerheads Water Rugby | ■ USA Boxing |
| ■ M&M Corporation | ■ Rutgers University | ■ Wrestling Pro |
| | ■ Sea Lions Water Rugby | |



James Rios/@newarknjphotog

Newark Winter Village is part of Downtown Newark for the Holidays.

A Focus on Newark's Culture

The Arts & Education District highlights and promotes the art and educational institutions, public spaces, and local businesses that contribute to Newark's cultural vibrancy.

- The City of Newark was recognized as the **8th most arts-vibrant city** in the country by Southern Methodist University DataArts.
- The City's **first Poet Laureate program** was created to promote the literary arts and provide poetry writing workshops.
- The City hosted the **Newark Arts Festival** and **North 2 Shore Festival**.
- The **Newark Museum of Art** is being expanded with the construction of **Museum Parc**, a fully integrated mixed-use, mixed-income housing and retail development in Downtown Newark.
- **NJPAC** began a **\$336M** transformation that will include a park, local markets and classes, and a new mixed-use development that will include 350 residential rental units and retail/cultural spaces.
- The City hosted **Downtown Newark for the Holidays**, a festive marketing initiative that highlighted and promoted holiday programming, events, and special offerings.



Expansion of NJPAC(L) and the Newark Museum(R)

\$3.2M + 500 Grants

Provided by the Newark Arts and Education district to artists and cultural organizations through the City's Creative Catalyst Fund.



The Mammography in Motion bus gives women access to breast cancer screening.

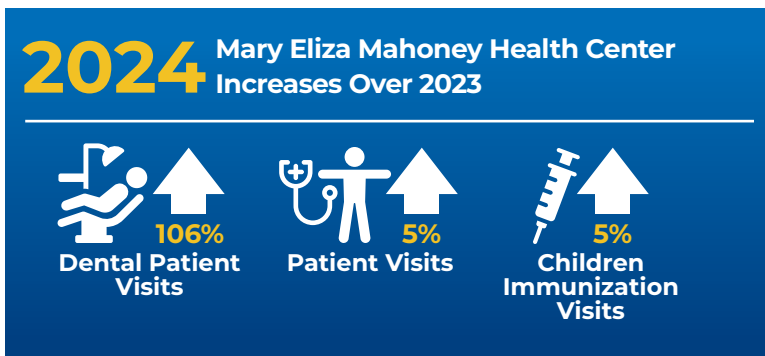
Courtesy of University Hospital

A Healthier, More Community-oriented Newark

The mission of Newark's Department of Health & Community Wellness is to provide and advocate for comprehensive healthcare access and social and environmental services to all city residents and consumers.

- The **Mary Eliza Mahoney Health Center's Denture Program** was established in March 2024 and provides affordable dental care. To date, **more than 800 dental procedures** have been completed.
- Enrollment in the **Women, Infants and Children Program** increased by **5%** in 2024 and the number of **clients served increased by 12%**.
- The **Childhood Lead Exposure Program** performs home inspections for lead-paint hazards, particularly when a child is found to have elevated blood lead levels. The number of **home inspections increased by 20%** from 2023 to 2024, and the number of **homes that received assistance in removing health hazards increased by 22%**.

- **Mammography in Motion** is a mobile medical/breast cancer screening program of University Hospital. Since the program's implementation in April 2024, **more than 500 women have been connected with the program**, accounting for almost 25% of the women screened throughout the entire City of Newark.
- Implemented in April 2024, **Uber Health** provides direct transport to and from medical appointments. With the support of Robert Wood Johnson Health, the Mary Eliza Mahoney Health Center has been able to schedule **transportation for 6,605 patients** to date at no cost to the patient or health center.



Community tree planting

Neighborhoods and Residents

Newark's Office of Sustainability is a city-led effort to create a healthier, greener, and more resilient city. The Office works with public and private stakeholders to tackle environmental health and quality of life issues and prepare the city for weather extremes.

- The City of Newark planted more than **150 trees** alongside Newark residents across all five wards. An **additional 150 trees** were planted by the NJ Tree Foundation and the South Ward Environmental Alliance in collaboration with the City.
- The Office wrapped up the **Nourishing Newark Community Grant Program**, which was created in 2022 to address food insecurity intensified by COVID-19. In total, **the program awarded 12 local nonprofit organizations more than \$1.5M.**
- The office partnered with the **Department of Public Works** to acquire **eight new electric vehicle garbage trucks**, helping to reduce emissions and improve air quality.

Educating Newark Youth

- Under the Newark Citywide Prenatal to 3rd Grade 10-Point Literacy Plan, **5,000 books were distributed** to Newark families to develop home libraries through events such as Reading Under the Stars, the Racism Roundtable, and Aftershock: The State of Maternal Health Panel Discussion with Tonya Lewis Lee.

Newark Fiber:

- Provided internet service to **25 businesses** and **1,600 Housing Authority units.**
- Provided **34,000 households** with the Affordable Connectivity Program internet discount.
- Implemented **811 One Call** across Newark Fiber operations to reduce disruptions and increase reliability for residents and businesses.
- Connected Hope Village 2 with **free high-speed internet** and donated **seven refurbished computers**, benefiting 25 residents.
- **Provided reinforced radio coverage** for the City's Public Safety team and **provided internet access** to three new public safety buildings.

Office of Information Technology

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) endeavors to elevate the technology landscape of the City of Newark by building a resilient, innovative, and forward-thinking organization.

- **Wi-Fi coverage was expanded on the campus of Rutgers University-Newark** and around the perimeter of campus.
- The City of Newark **developed a digital vendor registration** form for the annual 24 Hours of Peace event and **provided all event participants with Wi-Fi access.**





RainReady Newark announcement at the 2024 South Ward Environmental Alliance Summit at the Temple of Hip-Hop.

Clean Streets, Clean Water and Fiscally Sound

Newark works hard to make their busy metropolis operate like it should. Here's a snapshot of some of the measures the City took to keep itself in top shape.

Department of Water and Sewer Updates

- Newark had **exceptional water quality** with as low as **0 parts per billion of lead**, well below the EPA safety threshold of 15 parts per billion.
- The **Newark-Pequannock Water Treatment Plant** is nearing the completion of a **\$23M upgrade**, which **will increase water production capacity to 60 million gallons per day**.
- The green infrastructure program **RainReady Newark** was launched to improve the City's stormwater management and cultivate more green space.
- The Department of Water and Sewer Utilities was the **recipient of two awards** from American Water Works Association of New Jersey.
- **Newark's Lead Service Line Replacement Program** is featured in the "Health Is a Human Right: Achieving Health Equity" **exhibition at the David J. Sencer CDC Museum** in Atlanta.



Newark Water & Sewer Lead Service Line Replacement Program is featured in the David J. Sencer CDC Museum in Atlanta, GA.

Improving Finances

- Moody's credit rating upgraded from **Baa2 to Baa1**, reflecting improved fiscal health and investor confidence.
- The City maintained **15% fiscal reserves** without reliance on state aid or deficit financing.
- The City saw a 2.12% increase in total revenues, from **\$940M to \$960M**.

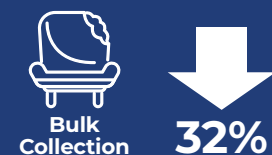


Keeping Newark Clean

Newark's population has grown from 282,223 residents in 2018 to 310,000 residents in 2024, emphasizing the increasing demand for effective waste collection services, therefore:

- A Department of Public Works (DPW) **Office of Customer Service** was created.
- **Ward Satellite Service Centers** were expanded to include sites that provide localized access to essential waste management services.
- DPW implemented **round-the-clock scheduling** to ensure a consistent presence across Newark, improving cleanliness and service efficiency.

2022 - 2024



2024 Department of Engineering Highlights

- Completed the **Safe Routes to Transit** grant-funded project at Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard, Central Avenue, and Sussex Avenue.
- Completed the **Broad Street corridor name-change and signage replacement** to Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson Boulevard.
- Completed the city-wide installation of **solar-powered speed detection devices**.
- Installed **ShotSpotter gunshot detection devices** at various locations in the City.
- Managed approximately **\$90M in active grant projects** and approximately **\$15M in grant pursuits**.
- Upgraded the City with storm water mitigation and corridor-wide street paving.



Safe Routes to Transit Grant-Funded project at Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd, Central Ave and Sussex Ave





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CITY
OF **NEWARK**
Mayor Ras J. Baraka

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