



State of the City

Part 1: Newark. And Proud of It.

October 26, 2021



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Mayor

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Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Central Ward Councilmember LaMonica McIver and officials celebrate the ribbon cutting of Somerset Brownstones

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Letter from Mayor

Ras J. Baraka

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2021 Newark State of the City Address Part I: Newark. And Proud of It.

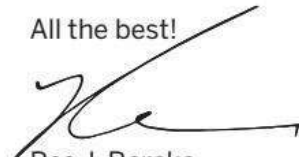
Last year was one of the most challenging years in our city's 355-year history. The COVID-19 pandemic claimed the lives of many of our residents, damaged our economy, and forced our students to attend virtual classes from home. We had to provide everything from routine municipal services to specialized responses to COVID-19. These required professional, pro-active, compassionate, and caring efforts in every field, from pop-up testing sites to food deliveries for seniors to economic programs to support businesses and families at-risk.

While we battled COVID, providing our residents with up-to-date information through regular Facebook Live and Newark TV updates, we also continued our nation-leading efforts to remove lead-service water lines from Newark. In less than three years, we have removed more than 22,000 of these hazardous lines, doing so in a pioneering manner that maximizes efficiency and at no cost to taxpayers.

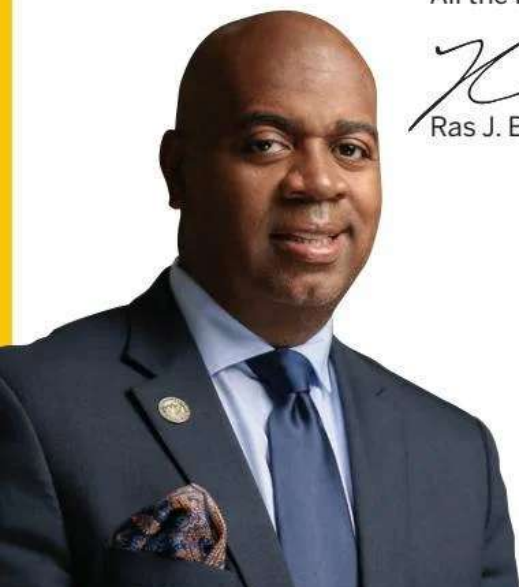
Newark also led the way in providing a pilot group of city residents with a Guaranteed Income to combat the economic inequity in our society, continued to push forward with Affordable Housing to supplement our market-rate development, and enhanced our work to reduce crime, prevent violence, and ensure that our police uphold the law while respecting human rights. And finally, we paid homage to one of Newark's greatest African-American heroes: the iconic Kenneth A. Gibson.

After seven years in office, under our strong stewardship and leadership, with our stronger partnerships and unity, and our unabated love of our community, we are creating an empowered, safer, educated, equitable, and collaborative city. This booklet will show you how and what we are doing to continue to move Newark forward. 2020 may have been a difficult year, but as a New Jersey native often sang, "The best is yet to come." Newark. And Proud of It.

All the best!



Ras J. Baraka



"We are creating an empowered, safer, educated, equitable, and collaborative city."

– Mayor Ras J. Baraka

A Resilient City

COVID-19

The greatest challenge that Newark has faced since the 1967 Rebellion has been the global COVID-19 pandemic, and our city and its people have responded to it with the energy, professionalism, and compassion that define us as a community.

We not only moved to address the pandemic, but the additional issues it has caused: problems for our residents without addresses; tenants who could not pay rent; businesses and landlords that faced economic disaster; remote learning for our youth; senior care; and the continued functioning of municipal government during the extended lockdowns COVID created. Numerous organizations supported our outreach programs – particularly our faith-based community. As a result, our test positivity rate was down to **1 percent in June 2021**.



Newark Firefighters distribute meals to vulnerable residents impacted by COVID-19.



“...Our City and its people have responded to it with the energy, professionalism, and compassion that define us as a community.”



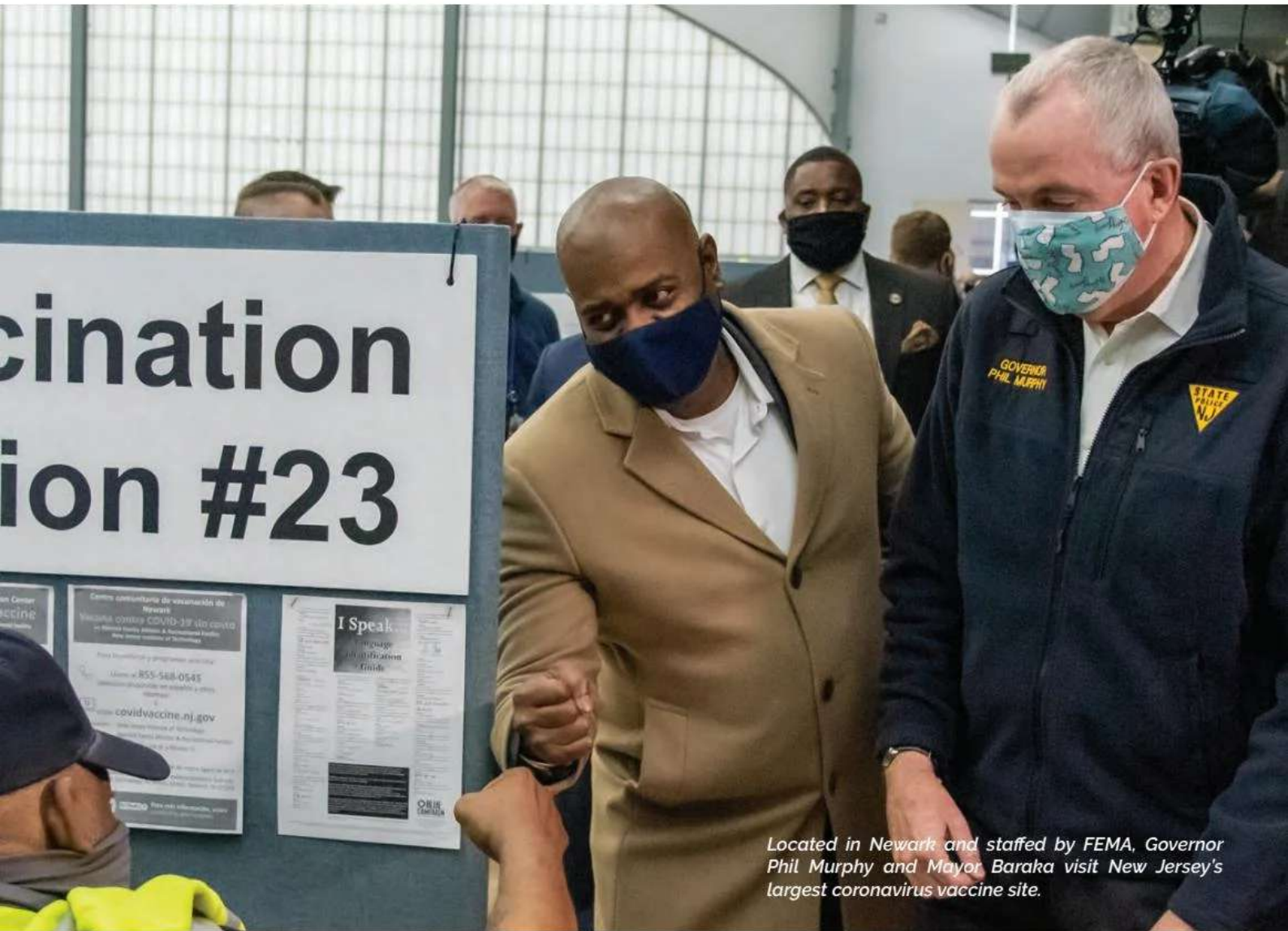
Residents visit one of Newark's COVID-19 testing sites. The City provided more than 350k tests to residents.

350K Creation of **20 testing sites** and **popup sites** across the city, which provided more than 350k tests to residents, turning around the **results in 24-48 hours**.

177K Established **8 permanent sites** and more than **520 “pop-up” sites** for COVID-19 vaccine administration, which vaccinated more than **177,000 residents 12 years and older with at least one shot (150,000 of which are fully vaccinated)**, including **1,950 residents without addresses** and **220 homebound residents**.

8M Distributed more than **8 million meals** to residents in conjunction with the Newark Public Schools.

30K Investigated and contact traced more than **30k COVID-19 positive residents** and their contacts to keep residents safe. Our system became the model for contact tracing for the State.



Located in Newark and staffed by FEMA, Governor Phil Murphy and Mayor Baraka visit New Jersey's largest coronavirus vaccine site.

95% Contracted with three hotels to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by housing **95 percent** of our unsheltered residents without addresses, as well as COVID-19 positive or contacts of positive travelers and residents needing isolation/quarantine.

1.9K The **Emergency Rental Assistance Program** enabled more than **1,900 households** to receive up to **15 months of rental assistance**. We are now moving to support more than **6,000 households**, leveraging **\$14 million** from the American Rescue Plan.

\$3.2M Our **Small Business Assistance Program** provided loans of up to **\$15,000** to our small businesses in need. In our first three rounds, we have distributed almost **\$3.2 million** and our next round will distribute another **\$2 million**.



Despite limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, City employees and partners traveled to each neighborhood in Newark to ensure an accurate Census response.

310K The **Newark Counts** campaign enabled us to surpass the **2010 US Census response**, when most cities saw decreased participation. The high turnout by Newark residents to return their 2020 Census forms enabled our city to surpass the **310,000-population mark for the first time since 1980**. This was a great achievement by and for our residents, as it enabled Newark to gain additional federal funding now and in the future. Thanks to our residents for supporting our home.

A Model City

Lead Service Lines



Crews made up of Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) remove lead service lines. The City is scheduled to complete the Lead Service Line Replacement Program this fall.

With the discovery of elevated trace lead levels in the drinking water in some of the City's older homes, we embarked on a crusade to eliminate the lead once and for all, with the Lead Service Line Replacement Program. Other cities and experts estimated it would take as long as 10 years to replace such lines, including ours.



"We replaced more than 22,000 lead service lines in the city in less than 3 years."



Crews have replaced more than 22k lead service lines throughout the city.

22K With the support of Governor Phil Murphy and the help of Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo, we **secured funding** to make this **\$190 million project** possible. We replaced more than **22,000 lead service lines** in the City in **less than 3 years**. No other city in America has done so as quickly and efficiently, at no cost to residents, in either capital outlay, increased taxes, or water rate hikes.

74% Two pieces of daring legislation also needed to be passed for us to complete the project. First, our **Essex statehouse delegation championed a bill** to let us use public money on private property for the expressed purpose of lead line replacement. Then, the **Municipal Council passed an ordinance** so we could change lines without the homeowner's permission. That opened the way for us to take a block-by-block approach to construction, without having to track down landlords. This ensured that the **74 percent of Newark residents** who rent would have the same access to clean water as private homeowners.

Part 1: Newark. And Proud of It.



Mayor Baraka, City Officials, and resident homeowners break ground on the first lead service line replaced under the City's removal program.

\$200M We also made **more than \$200 million** in improvements to our water system, including upgrades in monitoring technology, filtration, and environmental systems and delivery infrastructure, all to assure residents that the water coming out of the tap is among the very best in quality in the nation.



MODEL CITY

Newark is now considered the **"model city"** for lead service line replacement, which has become a major component of the **Biden Administration's Infrastructure bill**, and we are **sought after nationwide** to explain how we did it.



Newark's Director of Water and Sewer Utilities, Kareem Adeem, holds up a portion of copper piping used to replace old lead service lines.

A Safer City

Public Safety

The last two years have seen ghastly incidents of racist violence by white police officers against people of color across the nation. These events led to massive protests and equally massive changes and reform, ranging from the renaming of sports teams to the removal of statues of Confederate generals from public spaces. While these steps are symbolically important, it is more critical to change the way we protect and serve our people. Police reform is not a goal, but a necessity. In Newark, we have taken the lead to improve relationships between our police and our community, while continuing to create a safer city.



Educate the Block is a collective effort to promote community engagement, awareness and provide resources and visibility in the community.



"Our crime rate decreased by six percent. We have seen a 53 percent drop in homicides."



For the first time in the City's history, we graduated social workers on the same stage with police. The group of 10 social workers work with the Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery and support police in providing services to crime victims and others such as crisis intervention, mediation and referrals.

ADOPT A BLOCK PROGRAM

The **Adopt a Block Program** was created to build partnerships and promote meaningful dialogue within our communities.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

We created the **Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery**, the first of its kind in our city, using five percent of the Public Safety budget for community-based programs to address factors that lead to crime and violence, and help victims of violence recover from trauma. This office works to break generational cycles that lead youth and young adults into violence, drug use, and crime, by giving them insight into their own strengths and abilities to create legal paths to success.

LGBTQ+ SAFETY POLICY

We updated our **LGBTQ+ Safety** policy to ensure that we have dedicated staff to work with the community in case one of our LGBTQ residents is a crime victim.



The Newark Police Foundation launched its "Cops and Kids Community Policing Contest" aimed at addressing the need for more constructive engagement between Newark youth and police.

53% In a year where crime rates increased across the nation and world, our crime rate decreased by six percent. Since 2013, we have seen a **53 percent drop in homicides.**

70% Crime has been going down steadily in Newark in the past two decades, with an overall drop of **70 percent since the year 2000.** In **2020, Newark Police did not fire a single shot in the performance of its duties** to protect and serve residents and visitors, which speaks to our strategies to uphold the law while respecting human rights.

BODY CAMERAS

All officers, including the Chief of Police, wear **body cameras**, which enable every use of force incident to be reviewed. Doing so has helped our Police Division maintain a high quality of service and provide a visual record that has been useful in recommending and awarding decorations for excellent police duty and acts of valor.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Each of our **precincts has two Community Service Officers who address the needs of the precincts' neighborhoods.** They attend neighborhood meetings, host Coffee-with-a-Cop or Soup-with-a-Cop programs, conduct anti-bullying programs with students, participate in after-school or recreation center programs, and help our seniors avoid online scams.



A Newark Police officer engages a resident at an Educate the Block event.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A newly-created **Deputy Director of Community Relations** was appointed to build on the City's successful crime reduction strategies. The primary focus of this civilian position is to improve and foster community relations between the Police Division and Newark residents.

A More Equitable City

Guaranteed Income

Despite its economic power, the United States does not equally share its wealth. More than 40 percent of Americans cannot afford a single \$400 emergency. The wealth gaps are starker between whites and people of color. The median wealth of White families in New Jersey is \$352,000. For Black families it is \$6,100. For Latinx families, it is \$7,300. The average White worker made 28 percent more than the typical Black worker and 35 percent more than the median Latinx worker in 2019. At a time of rising inflation and increasing overseas competition, which threaten American jobs, we must end poverty in America. We are leading the way to do so, starting here in Newark.



Under Newark's Guaranteed Income program, 400 Newark residents receive \$500 per month or \$3,000 twice a year over the course of two years.

"We thank the following foundations who made this program happen:

Victoria Foundation, Dodge Foundation, MCJ Amelior Foundation, Chris and Loretta Stadler Family Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Mayors for a Guaranteed Income."



30 After calling for a pilot program in our 2019 State of the City Address, we created a multi-stakeholder **30-person Guaranteed Income Task Force** with support from the Economic Security Program and the Jain Family Institute. In June 2020, Mayor Baraka was the first of 11 Mayors to join the national Mayors for a Guaranteed Income. This network is now up to 60 Mayors.

\$5M Today, our program is one of the largest in the country, as we put **more than \$5 million in the next two years** into our residents' hands, which will empower their lives and strengthen our local economy. We are leading the nation on a major issue of racial, social, and economic justice. We are embodying the words of our pioneering Mayor, the late Kenneth A. Gibson, who said, "Wherever American cities are going, Newark will get there first."

GUARANTEED INCOME

The **Guaranteed Income Pilot** recognizes the dignity of people to lead self-directed lives. It provides an income floor to targeted individuals by sending them cash, no strings attached, and no work requirements, in regular intervals.

\$2.5M In Fall of 2020 and Winter of 2021, we fully designated our guaranteed income pilot, now named the **Newark Movement for Economic Equity** and identified **\$2.5 million** in private funding. When the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed, Mayor Baraka committed **\$3.8 million** to the Newark Movement for Economic Equity to ensure that it is fully funded.

\$500 The program's unique research design began providing **400 Newark residents** with **\$500 a month** or **\$3,000 twice a year** over the course of two years. Payments are made through our financial disbursement partner, MoCaFi, a financial digital banking platform headquartered in Newark.



30 The initial pilot program was a great success. The **30 families** involved built financial cushions, invested in their education, afforded necessities, and nurtured their loved ones.



Housing



Newark's award-winning Section 8 Homeownership Conversion Program is a national model for comprehensive economic mobility.

The City of Newark has seen an incredible boom in housing development in the last few years, in every ward. It is important that this development be equitable and beneficial to all of our residents and tenants, regardless of income level. This administration has committed itself to ensuring that Newark will have affordable housing for our residents, particularly those at-risk, as well as to encourage new home ownership for low- to moderate-income families.



"This administration has committed itself to ensure that Newark will have affordable housing for our residents."

HOMEOWNERSHIP

Working with Invest Newark, Newark's Economic Development Corporation, we developed a partnership to create the **Section 8 Homeownership Conversion Program**, which provides Section 8 tenants with rebuilt homes on blighted properties. Tenants use their rental vouchers and down payment assistance to purchase homes. This pioneering program also provides construction jobs for the renovation work. The Urban League of Essex County provides counseling and HUD Certified Coaches to work with the new homeowners.

20% Our groundbreaking **Inclusionary Zoning for Affordable Housing Ordinance** requires developers to set aside 20 percent of their residential units in buildings of more than 30 units as affordable housing, and they must give priority to Newark residents and assign these units equally throughout the structure. This applies to both new construction and renovated buildings. In 2020 and 2021, we created **3,569 housing units**, of which **1,512 are affordable**. That means more than **42 percent** of our new units designated for affordable housing.

3K The **Office of Tenant Legal Services** has provided free legal services to tenants facing eviction since its creation in 2019, enabling **3,000 residents** to stay in their homes.

\$10K Our **LIVE NEWARK** program supports our residents' dream of home ownership. It provides up to **\$10,000 of forgivable loans** to help **cover closing costs for first-time homebuyers** and forgivable loans of up to **\$20,000 for external home repairs**. So far, the City has given out **80 closing cost grants** and **66 grants for external home repairs since 2019**.

\$100M The **New Jersey 40 Acres and a Mule Fund**, a private investment vehicle, was created by the Mayors of Newark, Orange, East Orange, Paterson, Camden, Trenton, Irvington and Atlantic City to put capital directly in the hands of New Jersey's Black and Latinx business owners and communities, to combat and reduce social and economic inequalities.

A More Equitable City

Business And Economic Development

C OVID-19 impacted the nation's economy heavily, forcing businesses large and small to adopt draconian and expensive safety measures, and drove some to close their doors, creating a rise in unemployment. We took action to support businesses at-risk and Newark workers who were left unemployed. In addition, we worked to provide meaningful jobs and training opportunities for Newark youth.



Approximately 3,000 Newarkers participated in the City's Summer Youth Employment Program. Summer 2021 jobs included government, social services, health, and project-based learning opportunities in STEM, entertainment, leadership, and social justice.

"We worked to provide meaningful jobs and training opportunities for Newark youth."



66 To encourage diners to visit our excellent and diverse food options, we launched our first-ever **Restaurant Week**, with 66 eateries and restaurants participating.



Mayor Baraka, Adenah Bayoh, and other officials cut the ribbon to ceremonially open the new Urban Vegan restaurant, located at 915 Broad Street.

30K Launched for small businesses, **Newark Fiber** connected more than 30,000 people and will be expanded citywide. Newark Fiber is an innovative program that offers **Gigabit and 10 Gigabit internet connections** in participating residential and commercial buildings, recreation centers, parks, streets, and eventually in single-family homes. It builds on the City of Newark's fiber optic infrastructure delivering an unparalleled internet experience to startups, large corporations and apartment residents. Not only is Newark Fiber bridging the city's digital divide, it is also creating a national model for providing high-speed internet to communities in need.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Newark Small Business Week brings equitable resources to small businesses and includes events on financial planning, customer building, public relations, technical assistance, and certification guidance.

\$2M We created the **\$2 million Invest Newark Infrastructure Fund** to provide Newark-based contractors and subcontractors with the working capital to participate in the lead pipeline replacement initiative.



\$2M Despite the difficulties of COVID-19, we had a record year for our **Youth Employment Program**, raising **\$2 million** and providing our strongest such program ever. Newark youth gained access and exposure to a wide array of career fields and job experience and workplace skills. This included virtual programming to overcome the challenges of the pandemic.

A More Collaborative City

City Operations



Newark Municipal Employees provide residents with groceries and care packages to residents financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The social distancing requirements and additional responsibilities created by COVID-19 required Newark's dedicated and professional municipal workers to be adaptable and innovative in the face of the pandemic.



Mayor Baraka hosts a Facebook Live three times per week to update and provide residents with critical COVID-19 information and resources.



"COVID-19 required Newark's dedicated and professional municipal workers to be adaptable and innovative."

223 Many official programs that would normally be held in-person were accomplished virtually, including Municipal Council meetings, board meetings, Municipal Court proceedings, and even **223 virtual weddings**.

5K We provided free internet service to more than **5,000 Newark residents**, including **1,000 in low-income housing**, and we will expand our fiber network to our schools so that our kids have access to faster and more efficient internet services.



Deputy Mayor and Director of Economic and Housing Development Allison Ladd test rides an affordable electric scooter at the NewarkGo kickoff event.

2K We also created our very first shared bike and scooter program, called **NewarkGo**, to give our residents more transportation options, with **2,000 affordable electric scooters** and bicycles.

HEALTH In spite of the pandemic, the **Newark WIC Program maintained all of its services**, even expanding its programs.

82K We worked with **Bridges Outreach** to provide engagement services for the chronically homeless, and more than **2,000 such residents accepted services**. In addition, we provided **82,000 bed nights** to our unsheltered homeless population.

FINANCES COVID-19 resulted in a significant economic impact on Newark's revenues. As of August 31 of this year, our collections of Special Taxes (payroll, parking, and hotel taxes) was **\$53.2 million** or **76 percent** of the budget as compared to **\$55.9 million** or **71.8 percent** of the budget for 2020. This means that **\$2.7 million** less was collected in 2021. In comparison, on **August 31, 2019**, we had collected **\$67.3 million**, which means that we collected **\$14.1 million** less in 2021. To address this situation, we are generating revenues as the city re-opens and receiving federal funding from the federal American Recovery Plan.

A More Collaborative City

Public Space And Culture

The quality of life for our residents and visitors is of great importance. This issue interconnects with overcoming COVID-19 as well as creating a more sustainable Newark. It has become more important than ever to provide residents and visitors with outdoor green spaces during and after the pandemic, and we are combining our existing facilities with innovative programs, some in partnership with major non-profits, to do so.



Mayor Baraka had a vision to bring together Newarkers from all walks of life together for photo shoots throughout the city to capture Newark pride, excellence, diversity, and resilience in the face of a pandemic that separated us from our loved ones in unimaginable ways.

"Public art and murals in Newark are a major expression of how our residents and artists see our City, its history, present, and future. Public art speaks to the world, sending a message of pride in our past, faith in our present, and hope for the future. It defines the excellence of our artists and the unity of our community."



RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

To make our city cleaner, we have hired more workers, including from local job fairs and former **Governor McGreevey's new re-entry program for ex-offenders.**

INSIGHT We deployed **GPS systems to our sanitation trucks** so that our residents can have more insight into our trash pickup and snow cleanup, and we are managing our fuel usage more efficiently.

GREEN SPACES We created the **Newark City Parks Foundation, Inc.**, to improve five of our green spaces: Mulberry Commons, Riverfront Park, Military Park, Washington Park, and Lincoln Park.

90% The Trust for Public Land put Newark at **42nd place in its top 100 ParkScore rankings**, citing the City for having parks **within a 10-minute walk for more than 90 percent of its residents.**

RECREATION We began a **renovation of our largest facility, the JFK Recreation Center** in the Central Ward, which will include a three-lane track, a fitness center, and a boxing gym. We also organized the first-ever **Autism Summer Camp** partnering with Nassan's Place. The camp provided sensory friendly and recreational activity including math, literacy, music, science re-enforcement and arts and crafts. There were over 15 participants in the summer camp programs.

27 Newark has a long history as a center for the arts, and we continued that tradition when we completed the **505 Clinton/Gant-Gilberts Arts Collective, a 27-unit artist live-work housing project**, which provides space to our city's artists. This conversion puts an end to the building's 30 years of vacancy.

254 Our **Creative Catalyst Fund has supported artists and art groups** that were suffering under COVID-19 restrictions with flexible grants. This year **254 grants** were awarded to **individual artists** and artists' collectives and **65 for small to mid-sized arts organizations** totaling more



Under the City's mural program, large-scale murals have been installed and unveiled throughout the city.



Mayor Baraka, U.S. Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr, Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, County Executive Joe DiVincenzo, Essex County Freeholder Wayne Richardson, and the Gibson family unveil a statue dedicated to Newark's first African-American Mayor, Kenneth A. Gibson.

than \$1.6M. Grantees used the funds to help pay for rent, staff, and programming.

MAYOR KEN A. GIBSON

This year we honored one of Newark's greatest pioneers, activists, and leaders in a manner befitting him. We unveiled a statue of **Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson at City Hall**. Mayor Gibson was a unique figure in Newark's history. Like the engineer he was, he built the foundation for our present and inspired the leaders of today and tomorrow to continue his works. He is more than a Newark Mayor. He is a Newark icon.

HARRIET TUBMAN

We listen to our residents. When we asked what they would like to see in our city, they told us to honor one of the **greatest African-American heroes, Harriet Tubman**, who led her Underground Railroad "passengers" to safety through Newark. Her courage and valor speaks to the entire world even today. We are now creating a new monument to honor Harriet Tubman in a park that will bear her name.



Rendering of the new Harriet Tubman monument that will honor her legacy in a park that will bear her name.



BACK TOGETHER AGAIN

One of our most important programs this summer was the **"Back Together Again"** initiative, which was designed to reduce violence in identified hotspot locations through intervention; support activities that promote community participation and foster collaboration between municipal and external organizations; and increase coordination through community events, family fun activities, and other programs.

We undertook major steps as well to engage our residents and take back our neighborhoods:

- A Great Day in Newark
- The Summer Fun in the City 2021
- Occupy the Block Concert Series featuring DJ Lil Man
- Newark Public Library Summer Reading
- Educate the Block
- Newark Parks Foundation
- Newark Pride Events
- Alma Beatty Health and Wellness Fair
- Sage Sessions
- Public Safety Summer Events
- Prayer Walks and Faith-based Community Engagement
- Weekly Community Cleanups

Project Activation Programs to engage our residents in positive activities included:

- Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery Safe Summer Academy
- Summer Youth Employment
- Senior Wellness
- Homeless Support Services (through Newark Street Academy)
- Newark Go Bike and Scooter Share
- Summer Enrichment Program
- Newark People's Assembly COVID-19 Vaccination Pop-up sites
- Scavenger Hunts

The program resulted in major decreases in gun discharge and shooting incidents in the areas in which the initiative's activities took place.

A More Collaborative City

The Future of Newark

The future of Newark will not come to us. We cannot wait for it. We must build it. There are many challenges that face us. We must be active and pro-active, taking strong measures, leading by energy, effort, and example. We will do so. We will get there first.



A new pedestrian bridge will connect the newly opened Mulberry Commons Park to Penn Station.

"The future of Newark will not come to us. We cannot wait for it. We must build it. There are many challenges that face us."



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

We will continue to reduce crime through our continuing innovations, like the **Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery**.

\$2M We are launching a fourth round of Small Business Funding that will provide **\$2 million** in funding this fall.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Our new **Economic Recovery Plan** will continue to focus on our equitable growth. This is a road map for a stronger, fairer, and more prosperous future. We will provide the kind of help our small businesses need – bringing back customers and creating thriving commercial corridors.

GOOD PAYING JOBS

We will use federal funding from the **American Rescue Plan** to attract, retain, and expand businesses that create good jobs and career opportunities for our residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING

We are building a new **state-of-the-art Public Safety Training Center** in the South Ward, being developed by Brandywine Financial Services Corporation, which will be a centralized facility for firefighters and police officers. It will also host training programs for our Citizens/Clergy Public Safety Academy, police-community town hall meetings, and other public safety-related community groups. The 100,000-square foot facility will be equipped with computer labs, an auditorium, parking lots, modern classrooms, a running track, a community engagement room, a virtual training room, and a scenario training room.

NEW HOUSING

Our **Affordable Newark Initiative** will invest **\$20 million** in new housing targeted to residents who earn **\$32,000 a year or less**. This initiative will prioritize the creation of housing our residents can afford.

SUSTAINABLE VEHICLES

We will **expand our fleet of garbage pickup vehicles** with new electric trucks, which will make our fleet more sustainable.



DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This year we announced our bold vision to continue to guide our city's housing and development goals. In the next five years, we will:

- Fund the creation or preservation of **6,000 affordable homes**, prioritizing units available to Newark residents earning less than 30 percent of the area median income.
- Support **1,500 and 200 existing low- and moderate-income homeowners**.
- Convey all of the vacant properties currently held by the **City or Land Bank** that are suitable for residential development and not currently under **Residential Development Agreements**, with at least **30 percent** of the units developed on these sites affordable to residents making at or below 80 percent AMI.
- Support **10,000 vulnerable or unsheltered households** annually.
- Add **3,000 new housing units** (market rate and affordable) across all five wards, ready for residents to move in.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The creation of **Kawaida Towers** will achieve the dream of Newark's Pan-African leaders a generation ago. They sought a community empowered with political strength, education, property, and wealth, to fight powerfully for social, economic, and racial equality. The resumption of this project will benefit from the elder advisers who originally planned it. The Kawaida Towers will feature space for technology education provided jointly by the National Action Network and Rutgers-Newark, incorporating retail and a permanent exhibition space, serving as a model for future development.

REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Newark's development depends on intelligence, thoughtfulness, and broadmindedness. We are basing it on the principles of health, equity, resilience, and comprehensive engagement with the community and other stakeholders. To achieve these goals, we have a number of redevelopment projects underway, highlighted by these:

- **Forward-Bound Doremus:** This will aim to **balance the needs of industry, the environment, and the community, including residential and commercial uses** along with film studios, live performance theaters, artist studio workspaces, community spaces, and other facilities.
- **Fairmont Commons:** Conversion of **42 vacant lots** into predominantly affordable housing units. **\$60 million investment** in the area.
- **Dayton Street Redevelopment:** This plan will **replace vacant and blighted properties** in the neighborhood to provide a positive benefit to the community, including residential and commercial uses along with film studios, live performance theaters, artist studio workspaces, and community centers.

MULBERRY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Having completed **Mulberry Commons**, we are now designing **a bridge that will connect it with Penn Station**, addressing major pedestrian transportation needs for Newark and cutting congestion in the station, particularly when there are events at the Prudential Center.



Kawaida Towers will be the first 100 percent affordable housing development in downtown Newark and will achieve a 50-year-old dream, first envisioned by, among others, Amiri Baraka, Sr., the noted poet and activist, and father to Mayor Baraka.

A More Collaborative City

The Future of Newark

STREAMLINING CITY PROJECTS

We are working on a **Community Services Dashboard** with Rutgers University, in order to mitigate conflicts across projects in the city. This will provide the City and our residents with visual data on the many services and projects taking place across Newark on a daily basis.

NEWARK COMMUNITY MUSEUM

The creation of the **Newark Community Museum** will convert the old First Police Precinct – the epicenter of the 1967 Rebellion – into a place where Newark residents' movements for justice and celebrations of life will be on permanent display. Residents are asked to donate their artifacts for display that portray a story of resistance to injustice, and stories of people's struggle for justice.

HOMELESS OUTREACH

We are implementing a **new case management initiative for our homeless population**, which will focus heavily on placing residents without addresses into transitional and supportive permanent housing.

TEMPORARY HOUSING

In March 2020, the City opened **NEWARK Hope Village I**, which provided temporary housing to **27 chronically homeless people** who had lived in tents or makeshift shelters around Penn Station for more than a year. They also gained access to intensive outpatient drug programs, mental health services, and permanent housing. The temporary housing consists of converted and code-compliant containers. Now we are engaging in **NEWARK Hope Village Phase II**, which will consist of **seven containers**, which will consist of **25 units** and shelter for up to **50 homeless individuals and families**. Funding for Phase II is being provided by the American Rescue Plan Act, the CARES Act, the Essex County Division of Community Action through the State of New Jersey Code Blue Grant, and the City of Newark.

MILLER STREET SHELTER

We broke ground for the **Miller Street Shelter** in the South Ward in February. This facility will use the old Miller Street Elementary School to provide temporary, emergency, and transitional housing to homeless Newark residents, **24/7, 365 days a year**. It will have **166 transitional beds**;

"Re-imagining the old first Precinct building will remind us of Newark's history of struggling for justice while building a future where violence is seen as a public health issue and in which policing is only one part of the solution. The museum will enable residents to both record Newark's history and see it directly."



SCAN ME



In 2021, the City of Newark, Office of Homeless Services (OHS) has provided 82,851 bed nights to the City's "unsheltered homeless population."

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transportation; one-on-one case management; behavioral health, social, and nutrition services; a daily “drop-in” center, emergency shelter services for extreme weather conditions, and rental assistance programs.

300 Last November, our **Office of Homeless Services** launched a major program to create transitional, permanent, and supportive housing, to end homelessness in the city, commencing with **300 units**.

NJIT SCHOLARSHIP

The **Mayor's Scholarship** was initiated in collaboration with New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). The scholarship was established to support students who live in Newark and meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the Albert Dorman Honors College at NJIT. Recipients of the Mayor's scholarship will receive a four-year housing scholarship, covering the full cost of on-campus room expenses, in addition to their Honors merit award. **Up to three incoming first-year students will be selected based on both their academic and service accomplishments.** Preference will be given to applicants who attend **Newark public schools and demonstrate financial need as determined by federal guidelines.**



Mayor Baraka, NJIT President Joel Bloom, and other NJIT officials welcome the inaugural Mayor's Scholarship recipients.



Under the direction of Newark City Historian Junius Williams and Newark Community Museum Advisory Committee, the former 1st Precinct building will be converted into a facility where Newark residents' movement for justice and celebration of life will be on permanent display. The building will also house the City's Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery.

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October 26, 2021



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