

City Manager's Weekly Report

Department:

Administration - City Manager

Notable Notes:

City Manager:

Director Gray, CE Manager Petersen, and I met to discuss permitting software issues and to discuss a plan to address the lack of space available in Planning and Codes.

Director Del Grande and I completed the budget presentation for posting ahead of the 11/18 budget hearing.

We held a Council meeting on Monday night where Council adopted the Newark Sustainability Plan.

Union negotiations continued again this week, with meetings scheduled with both AFSCME 3919 and AFSCME 1670.

Finance Director Del Grande, Deputy Chief Farrall, and I attended a meeting of the Local Service Function Task Force.

I met with Caitlin Olsen and Vice President and University Secretary Jeff Garland to discuss ways to increase cooperation between UD and Newark. One outcome of the meeting was a letter of support for UD's grant request for funding to help build out infrastructure on STAR Campus.

We held a regular staff meeting to prepare for the 11/25 Council meeting.

Director Del Grande, Solicitor Bilodeau, and I met to discuss the ongoing NCC Lawsuit and several other outstanding items.

I met with Dean Rieger, Dean of the College of Ag, to discuss possible partnerships to help Newark meet the goals and intent of the Newark Sustainability Plan.

Assistant to the City Manager:

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martindale presented three purchasing-related recommendations to City Council during Monday's Council meeting, two of which (agenda items 6A and 6B) were approved.

Mr. Martindale additionally finished formatting the Safety & Training Committee's Safety Manual, which is now being reviewed by PMA Companies and Strategic Insurance Partners (SIP) before the Committee votes to approve the manual at the next Safety Committee meeting.

Along with IPA Local Government Fellow John Steponick, Mr. Martindale also began the process of writing grant applications and investigating Newark's applicability for participation in the Delaware Historical & Cultural Affairs (HCA) Certified Local Government (CLG) Program.

Finally, he met with a representative of Mailroom Systems, Inc. to see if the company had ways to improve the City's postage and other mailroom operations.

Facilities:

The Facilities Maintenance staff hung a TV for City news in the Parks building (Building #4) and installed a fan in Building #1's locker room at the Maintenance Yard.

Facilities staff also worked on the heater in Parking Booth 3B, helped City electricians determine a place for new electric panels in the Municipal Building, assisted Records staff move boxes and file cabinets, as well as removed the needles disposal container from the Police Department lobby (at the request of NPD).

Local Government Management Fellow:

John Steponick drafted a cover letter for the Delaware Preservation Fund as the first part of the grant application process to receive funding to renovate the windows at the old Newark Train Station. He also continued grant research for Parks & Rec and Public Works as well as brainstormed ideas for next year's Parks on Draft events with Parks Director Joe Spadafino.

Activity or Project:

Description:

Status:

Expected Completion:

Execution Status:

Activity or Project:

Description:

Status:

Expected Completion:

Execution Status:

Activity or Project:

Description:

Status:

Expected Completion:

Execution Status:

City Manager's Weekly Report

Department:

City Secretary and City Solicitor's Office

Notable Notes:

Paul was in the office on November 11 for Council and November 13. Geena was in the office on November 7 for Court.

Renee met with Councilman Markham on November 7 and Councilwoman Hughes on November 13.

Renee attended the staff meeting on November 7 where the November 18 Council agenda was discussed.

Staff finalized and posted the agenda and packet items for the November 18 Council meeting on November 11.

Paul, Renee and Tara staffed the Council meeting on November 11. Items 2B (October 28 Council minutes) and 2D (October 1 Council minutes) were posted and distributed to Council on November 8. Staff completed follow up work throughout the week.

Renee attended a bid opening on November 12.

Renee and Nichol staffed the Conservation Advisory Commission meeting on November 12. The CAC determined article topics and submission dates for the Newark Post, discussed the photovoltaic grant funding for private projects and recommended Council decrease the cap to \$3,500 as an interim measure until the CAC can determine alternative uses for Green Energy Funds to analyze more effective and equitable impacts in the community with a goal date of June 2020, recapped reforestation day, and discussed anti-idling enforcement strategies.

Renee drafted the subdivision agreement, circulated it to staff for review, received comments back and forwarded the revised agreement to the applicant for review for the development project at 287 East Main Street. This Comprehensive Plan amendment, rezoning, major subdivision and special use permit is scheduled for public hearing at the November 25 Council meeting.

Renee worked to schedule agenda items for upcoming Council meetings and drafted the November 25 Council agenda. Council meetings are now being booked into March of 2020.

Tara spent time working on permit reviews for various development projects.

Tara worked on several union matters and union negotiations.

Renee and Tara spent time researching several items for staff and Council.

Staff spent time on FOIA-related items this week. The following actions were taken on FOIA requests:

- * Provided a response and closed an October 21 FOIA request for NPD 911 call records from Tara Smyth
- * Provided a response and closed an October 25 FOIA request for police records from Lyons Dougherty Firm
- * Provided a response and closed two October 28 FOIA requests for documents related to 321 Hillside Road from Environmental Alliance
- * Provided a response and closed an October 30 FOIA request for pending cell phone tower applications and site plans from SBA Communications Corporation

* Provided a response and closed a November 5 FOIA request for NPD 911 call records from Tara Smyth

* Provided a response and closed a November 11 FOIA request for NPD records from Ashley Farrell

Regarding minutes, staff time was spent on the October 28 Council (Nichol drafted; Renee edited - complete) and November 4 Council (Nichol drafting) minutes. Several sets of Council Executive Sessions, the October 17 Board of Adjustment, November 11 Council and November 12 Conservation Advisory Commission minutes are currently in the queue.

Danielle fulfilled 25 discovery requests for upcoming Alderman's Court cases. 523 discovery requests have been filled so far this year. There was no court calendar for this week since there is no Court session on November 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. 44 court calendars with 780 associated cases have been prepared so far for 2019. Two pleas by mail were processed.

The office received 8 new lien certificate requests this week, which were sent to Finance for processing. 14 lien certificates were completed and sent to the requestor. 1,646 lien certificates have been processed for 2019.

Activity or Project:

Digital Records Project

Description:

Samantha conducted TCM training for Public Works and Water Resources staff.

Students from the Networks Program with the Christina School District worked on November 13 and will be working on document preparation for the Division once a week for the school year. This work provides job skills training for the students as well as helps to streamline the processing of documents for the Division and increase the Division's productivity at no cost to the City.

Records Division staff worked on quality control review for documents already scanned or being directly imported into TCM. This project is critical to ensure that when public portals are opened, there is consistent titling and metadata so documents can be easily found by members of the public.

The scanned documents numbers for November 7-13 are below.

Status:	In-Progress
Expected Completion:	
Execution Status:	On Track

Activity or Project:

Staff Recruitment

Description:

An applicant was offered and has accepted the part-time Secretary position in the Legislative Department. Her first day is November 18.

Status:	Completed
Expected Completion:	11-18-2019
Execution Status:	Completed

Activity or Project:

Recodification

Description:

Renee spent time reviewing the Code proofs for the recodification project. This round of proofs is expected to be submitted by November 25.

Status:

In-Progress

Expected Completion:

02-28-2020

Execution Status:

Behind Schedule

City Manager's Weekly Report**Department:**

Electric Department

Notable Notes:

The line crews replace a failed pad mount transformer at Williamsburg Village and completed a 12kV recloser install in front of the George Wilson Center. The crews also replaced bad lightning arrestors at the Dupont site on Bellevue Road.

The electricians worked on adding distribution panels at City Hall, installed outlets and pulled CAT5 cable at the police station, and worked on the antenna installation for the recloser that the line crews just installed. They also accompanied engineering and water personnel to the North West Booster Station to design the addition of a generator.

Engineering worked on the Green Mansion and Train Station projects. Engineering also started SCADA evaluations by having a vendor give a presentation and a demo of their system.

Activity or Project:**Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:****Activity or Project:****Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:****Activity or Project:****Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:**

Execution Status:**City Manager's Weekly Report****Department:**

Finance Department

Notable Notes:

Staff has been preparing for the November 18th Budget Hearing. Current proposed budget can be found on Budget Central: <https://newarkde.gov/1007/Budget-Central> The November 18 presentation can be found via this link: <https://newarkde.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6322> Staff will be proposing four scenarios to Council on the 18th. All four scenarios will cost the average resident between \$9.61 and \$13.88 more per month, depending on which scenario Council decides. All scenarios are better than the \$14.39 refuse fee provided to Council on November 4th.

The majority of Director Del Grande's week other than budget-related issues has been spent working on union negotiations with our AFSCME locals.

11/13 – City Manager Coleman, Deputy Chief Farrall and Director Del Grande attended the Local Service Task Force meeting at the City County Building.

The City's utility billing interface, Customer Connect, was scheduled to undergo an upgrade this past August. Our vendor has resolved the critical issues and we are now scheduled to go live on December 9th. During this upgrade, current customers who use budget billing and pre-authorized payments will need to log into the system one time to establish their payment preference. We are encouraging all to select a bank draft vs. a credit card payment in order to avoid future credit card fees. Updated information will be following shortly.

Activity or Project:**Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:****Activity or Project:****Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:****Activity or Project:****Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:**

City Manager's Weekly Report

Department:

Information Technology Department

Notable Notes:

Applications Team:

Open Tickets from Previous Week - 46

Tickets Opened in the Last Two Weeks - 55

Tickets Closed in the Last Two Weeks - 55

Remaining Open Tickets – 46

1. Coordinated and attended a webex demo of DataVoice outage management system with Electric Department on 11/4.
2. Held status update call with Harris on 11/6 for CC6 project to discuss timeline.
3. Meeting with Finance, PUB and Communications to discuss outreach for CC6 launch on 11/6.
4. Meeting with Paymentus and Finance to discuss the City's contract on 11/6.
5. Attending Tyler 311 Admin training on 11/8.
6. Coordinated and attended training for Connexo NetSense with Electric Department on 11/8.
7. Conducted user acceptance testing with PUB staff for CC6 on 11/11.
8. Held status update call with Harris on 11/11 for CC6 project to confirm timeline.
9. Meeting with Harris Smartworks to discuss next steps post HCTC conference on 11/13.
10. Worked on and resolved support tickets for end users.
11. Created reports for users as requested.

Pending:

1. POS Cashiering for Welcome Center is on hold, waiting for vendor fix.
2. Signed mCare 6 statement of work, implementation will be scheduled once CC6 is live.
3. Paymentus to switch over Tyler Munis payment processing from Auth.net.

Infrastructure Team:

Open Tickets from Previous Week - 86

Tickets Opened in the Last Two Weeks - 98

Tickets Closed in the Last Two Weeks - 96

Remaining Open Tickets - 88

1. Took delivery of AeroHive wireless access points.
2. Met with Dell regarding their enterprise backup and DR solution.
3. Configured live stream from the TriCaster.
4. Worked on and resolved support tickets for end users.
5. Actively responded to and resolved Secureworks alerts.

Pending:

1. Preparing to move Electric's data to SharePoint.
2. Test latest iteration of the employee onboarding script.
3. Working with Dell to gain access to the AeroHive cloud management portal.

Activity or Project:

Customer Connect 6 Upgrade

Description:

Phase Activities

June 24 - Completed

- Project Kick Off
- Customer Preparation
- Completion of the Deployment and Configuration checklist by Newark

July 1 - Completed

- CustomerConnect Installation & Configuration
- CustomerConnect Product Review with Core Team
- Core Team Configuration

July 15 - Completed

- User Acceptance Testing & Issues Remediation

July 22 - Completed

- User Acceptance Testing & Issues Remediation
- CustomerConnect Administrator Training

July 29 - Completed

- User Acceptance Testing & Issues Remediation
- CustomerConnect Product Review with CSRs

Aug 19 - G live date scheduled for 12/9/19.

- Go LIVE
- Post Go LIVE Support
- Transition to Support Services

Status:	Near Completion
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Expected Completion:	08-23-2019
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Execution Status:	Behind Schedule
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Activity or Project:**Description:**

Status:	
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Expected Completion:	
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Execution Status:	
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Activity or Project:**Description:**

Status:	
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Expected Completion:	
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Execution Status:	
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City Manager's Weekly Report

Department:

Parks and Recreation Department

Notable Notes:

Director: Met with Tim and Bhadresh about the Elkton Road agreement with DelDOT; reviewed Rodney meadow design and meadow management plan; met with Paula about upcoming events and recreation activities; met with resident about pedestrian bridge over the Christina Creek between West Branch and Christianstead developments; we were awarded a \$32,000 grant from DNREC for our park and way finding signage replacement and improvements; met with parks staff about upcoming Eagle Scout and volunteer projects; met with Ethan about Kells and Lewis Park parking lots resurfacing taking place this month.

Deputy Director: Sent out reminders regarding upcoming items to complete for Turkey Trot and Winterfest; attended budget presentation at City Council meeting; worked with Shelby to send out PSA for Turkey Trot and Thanksgiving Day Breakfast; spoke with Melinda and Abrakadoodle representative regarding winter/spring classes; attended meeting on White Clay Creek pedestrian bridge; worked on finalizing pottery class information for the winter/spring with the instructor, changing firing schedule for the kiln to ensure staff is present during final stages and updating the information in the staff manual regarding the kiln; completed purchase orders for the dance recital costumes, stage piece and safety vests for volunteers; worked with swim instructors on changes for swim schedule; worked with Kathy to finalize contracted employee list for Finance; continued to work with Wilson Center attendants on coverage for rentals for November and booking 2020 reservations; conducted weekly staff meeting with recreation staff; continued to process special event applications; continued to process and confirm financial assistance for applications received.

Recreation Supervisor of Athletics: Continues working on a few follow-up items for our West Park before and after care license renewal, monthly parents newsletter was sent out; completed youth basketball team rosters and sent out to volunteer coaches, practices begin Nov. 18; Adult Winter Volleyball leagues began this week; working on winter/spring program information, preparing for the Thanksgiving Day Breakfast; preparing for three upcoming School's Out Day program at the George Wilson Center on Nov. 11, 14, and 15; pickleball was held this week at the George Wilson Center; secured a trip leader for Dec. 7 NYC bus trip; assisted Parks Supervisor with installation of new parts for the kiln; due to some weather cancellations the Adult softball league has one week left scheduled for 11/17.

Recreation Supervisor of Community Events: Preparing for the upcoming Turkey Trot including ordering shirts and trophies and soliciting donations from local businesses; working on winter/spring programs, instructors have been updating their classes; sent updated rosters to instructors.

Recreation Specialist: Tallied and entered the fraternity information into the volunteer spreadsheet for Fall Community Clean Up, transferred all the summer camp volunteer information over to the master volunteer spreadsheet, continued to work on the end of the year volunteer report; coordinated volunteers, printed sign-in sheets, and made Tree Sign-Out sheet for the Redd Park Reforestation, posted event on Facebook; purchased and delivered Friday club supplies for before and after care and created November Newsletter; took Thanksgiving Day Breakfast flyers to

Senior Center, stopped at Bagelmania and put us on the list to pick up leftover bagels on the afternoon of Nov. 27th, stopped at Acme Starbucks and inquired about donation of three coffee cambros; got the Volleyball score sheets from Newark Charter School and entered them on the website.

Parks Superintendent looked at several trees called in by residents, completed play equipment grant application for new play unit at George Reed Park, coordinated reforestation planting at Redd Park and oversaw planting of 30 perennial groundcovers/18 shrubs/18 trees as well as watering in the new plant materials/putting on tree protection sleeves over 35 existing tree seedlings already growing within the area to protect from deer browsing, oversaw planting of several horticulture sites throughout park system, turned on heater in pump room at Olan Thomas, with assistance from Recreation Division/State Forestry arranged for tree give away to the public as part of the 2019 reforestation project and met with Parks Director to select play unit for play equipment grant application.

Parks Supervisor assisted in organizing for reforestation planting, assigned field staff daily and assisted as needed, assisted in Kiln repair at Wilson Center, checked heater settings at Dickey Park pool house and Rittenhouse block building, and continued coordinating for upcoming holiday tree placement/decorating.

Parks/Horticulture staff continued on mowing/leaf mulching operations throughout park system, started annual removal and winterizing irrigation systems for season, put in winterization kits in both pools and winterized bathrooms at Dickey pool and Rittenhouse block building, prepped Handloff ballfield and Fairfield soccer field for league play, assisted Public Works at Transfer Station running big loader, did trash removal throughout park system as needed, installed/repairs sign at Cook Way entrance to Redd Park, blew off several tennis courts/basketball courts/parking lots as needed, did interior bed maintenance at City Hall, planted seasonal color in pot at Reservoir, removed graffiti twice at Preston's Playground, started cutbacks on perennial plant materials, continued on work orders as assigned, continued putting down safety surfacing under play/swing units throughout park system and watered new plantings in both basin areas at Preston's Playground. Water Division blew off sprinkler system at Olan Thomas and turned off water at Hill Park and the Community Garden.

Activity or Project:

Kells and Lewis Park Parking Lot Resurfacing

Description:

Parking lot resurfacing will begin next week at Kells Park followed by Lewis Park the following week. The Parks will remain open during this time while the parking lots are closed for repairs. Depending on the weather, the resurfacing should take approximately one week for each parking lot.

Status:	Not Started
Expected Completion:	12-02-2019
Execution Status:	On Track

Activity or Project:

Description:

Status:	
Expected Completion:	
Execution Status:	
Activity or Project:	
Description:	
Status:	
Expected Completion:	
Execution Status:	

City Manager's Weekly Report

Department:

Planning and Development Department

Notable Notes:

Parking:

The Lot 4 countdown sign is back online after infrastructure improvements have been made. Lot 3 is still offline as hotel construction requires multiple changes to the lot countdown sign infrastructure. Additional signage was ordered for the street in preparation for the parking the City will get back from A-Del as they finish up for the winter season. Parking on one side of the street will be IPS meters in the area between Choate Street and Chapel Street, while the other side will be pay-by-app parking for those who have Passport, as meters had to be removed on that side during the construction.

Parking Management met with Public Works and Water Resources management to discuss public pedestrian access to Lot 3 once construction begins on the Hyatt hotel/garage. Parking employees continued participation in anti-harassment training as required by the State of Delaware. Management met with private vendors to discuss possible parking management of satellite parking lots through Newark. Staff worked with Finance to continue moving Parking financials over to the Tyler Munis and Tyler Cashiering systems.

Planning and Development Director:

Participated in the regular meeting of the Delaware Main Street program organized by the Delaware Department of State. With the demise of the DNP, the Planning and Development Department has filled in the role of participating in the Main Street program as time and resources allow. This is my second meeting. Attendance and participation in these meetings affords the Planning and Development Department an opportunity to meet and network with all of the Main Street entities throughout the state, keep abreast of what other Main Street programs are doing as well as learn what the State is doing in this arena. I have found participation in these meetings to be helpful and informative.

I gave a presentation on the "State of Development" in Newark where I presented land use projects that have been approved, that are in-house as well as proposed policies to address growth at the 4th Annual Delaware Commercial Real Estate Forecast Summit - State of the Market on

November 6 in New Castle. It was a well-attended conference consisting largely of real estate and development professionals largely working in New Castle County.

Prepared for and participated in the November 11, 2019 City Council meeting.

As the President of the DE American Planning Association Chapter, I presided over our 2019 Fall Conference held on November 7, 2019 at the Embassy Suites in Newark (flyer enclosed). We had a record number of attendees (103) including three (3) City of Newark Planning Commissioners and Mayor Clifton who welcomed everyone to the City of Newark and opened the conference. Other speakers included Max Walton who gave the 2019 Delaware Planning Law Review, Noemi Mendez from the Census Bureau to discuss Census Data/Visualization Tools for 2020 Census, Joel Albizo, CEO of APA who talked on the value and field of forward thinking and planning for the future, and an afternoon panel discussion on Social Equity in Planning from the National, State, Regional and local perspective. From my perspective, it was a fabulous conference where progressive planning ideas were exchanged, new information learned and significant engagement with planners and non-planners alike throughout the state and region (we had some attendees from PA and MD) was had.

Participated in anti-harassment training.

Prepared for and attended the Transportation Improvement District (TID) workgroup meeting on November 13, 2019. <https://newarkde.gov/1127/Transportation-Improvement-District-Comm> The TID Committee endorsed the proposed TID boundary and planning horizon. The next step for the TID workgroup is to look at level of service for roads and land use projections. Next meeting is January 15, 2020. The TID agreement that includes the proposed TID boundary and planning horizon will be presented to the Planning Commission at their December 3, 2019 meeting for their recommendation to Council. Council will be reviewing this on January 6, 2020 agenda.

Through the Mid-Career Managers Institute at the International City Managers Association (ICMA), I participated in ICMA webinar – “Having Difficult Conversations in your Organizations and Beyond” which I found helpful and informative.

Prepared for the Rental Housing Workgroup meeting scheduled November 14, 2019 <https://newarkde.gov/1118/Rental-Housing-Workgroup>. Since the presentation of the draft recommendations of the Rental Workgroup to Council scheduled for October 28, 2019 was postponed by Council due to time constraints, the purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the recommendations and survey results with the Mayor and Council members present, as well as next steps for the February 3, 2020 Council presentation.

Spent time on plan review and related issues as well as preparing for the December Planning Commission meeting.

Spent time on managerial issues and administrative tasks.

Planning/Land Use:

Planner Mike Fortner presented the Newark Community Sustainability Plan – Sustainable Newark - to Council at their November 11 meeting. Council voted unanimously to adopt the Plan as a roadmap to integrating sustainability into City policies and projects. Mike will begin working

with City staff and the Conservation Advisory Commission on implementation. All policy, ordinances, and spending/purchasing associated with the Sustainable Newark plan will go through normal City procedures. Also on November 11, Mike presented a report to City Council on the Special Use Permit application for Hardbat CrossFit, a commercial indoor recreation use proposed for an MI zoning district, at 1325 Old Coochs Bridge Road. Council unanimously approved the special use permit at that meeting. On November 8, Mike participated in the Delaware State Housing Authority's Fair Housing Consortium conference call on the Draft Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing. On November 13, Mike participated in the Transportation Improvement Districts planning meeting.

The following was also completed:

- 2 Deed Transfer Affidavits
- 51 Building Permit Reviews

Land Use Projects Currently Under Review:

1119 South College Avenue, Parcel 1804600026 (PR#16-06-01): On June 6, 2016, the Planning and Development Department received a sketch plan review for the proposed redevelopment of the property at 1119 South College Avenue, the present location of the Red Roof Inn. The application and plans for the proposed major subdivision and special use permit were received on November 20, 2016. Revised plans were received February 8, 2017. The proposal calls for demolition of the existing structure at the site and construction of a 4-story hotel and convenience store with gas pumps, with associated parking. Staff comments were sent to the applicant on March 9, 2017. The Board of Adjustment granted variances regarding area regulations and area requirements on June 21, 2018.

0 Independence Way, Village of Chestnut Hill, Parcel ID 1100900078 (PR#16-06-02): The Planning and Development Department received plans for an annexation, rezoning, and major subdivision of the property located at 0 Independence Way on June 30, 2016. The plans call for a 45-unit townhouse community at the site. Plans were reviewed by the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) at an October 13, 2017 meeting. SAC comments were sent to the applicant on October 27, 2017.

46 Welsh Tract Road, Parcel IDs 1100900033, 1100900059 (PR#17-11-03): On November 16, 2017, the Planning and Development Department received a sketch plan for the annexation, rezoning from S (Suburban) New Castle County zoning to RR (Town Houses) City of Newark zoning, and major subdivision, with possible site plan approval, of two parcels totaling 2.15 acres to construct 22 townhomes. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) on November 21, 2017. A SAC meeting was held on December 14, 2017. Staff comments were sent to the applicant on December 29, 2017.

419 and 421 Paper Mill Road, Parcel IDs 0805200010, 0805200011 (PR#17-11-04): Sketch plans for the annexation and rezoning of two existing single-family homes were received by the Planning and Development Department on November 21, 2017. The plan proposes annexation and rezoning from SR (Suburban Reserve) New Castle County zoning to RH (One Family Detached Residential) City of Newark zoning, in conjunction with the adjacent proposed subdivision of 0 Paper Mill Road, to tie into the public water and sanitary sewer. Submission of plans for 419 and 421 Paper Mill Road will likely be contingent on approval of the 0 Paper Mill Road subdivision, as the plan proposes the discharge of sewage using the 0 Paper Mill Road

infrastructure. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee on November 21, 2017.

1501 Casho Mill Road, Parcel ID 1803000127 (PR#17-11-05): On November 23, 2017, the Planning and Development Department received a sketch plan submission for a Comprehensive Development Plan amendment and major subdivision for the property located at 1501 Cash Mill Road. The proposal includes demolition of the existing office building at the site and construction of a new three-story structure with 23,526 square feet of office and retail on the first floor and 60 apartments on the second and third floors. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee on November 29, 2017. A SAC meeting was held on December 18, 2017. Staff comments were sent to the applicant on January 9, 2018. The Planning and Development Department received revised plans on March 12, 2019. Staff comments were forwarded to the applicant on July 22, 2019.

515 Capitol Trail, Charlotte's Way, Parcel IDs 1801000004, 1801000005 (PR#18-02-01): The Planning and Development Department received a sketch plan for the rezoning and major subdivision of 515 Capitol Trail, to be known as Charlotte's Way, on February 15, 2018. The plan proposes the rezoning of the property from RS to RR, demolition of the existing single-family home on the site, and construction of ten townhomes. Applications and plans for the rezoning and major subdivision with site plan approval of this property were received by the Planning and Development Department on September 26, 2018. The sketch plan was distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) on February 16, 2018. SAC comments were sent to the applicant on April 20, 2018. Plans received on September 26, 2018 were forwarded to the SAC for review on September 26. A SAC meeting was held on October 19, 2018 to discuss the plans with City operating departments. SAC comments were forwarded to the applicant on January 9, 2019. Revised plans were received by the Planning and Development Department on May 1, 2019. Staff comments were forwarded to the applicant on August 23, 2019.

1105 Elkton Road, Royal Farms, Parcel ID 1100400013 (PR#18-07-01): A sketch plan was received by the Planning and Development Department on July 20, 2018 for the property located at 1105 Elkton Road. The plan proposes an annexation, rezoning, and minor subdivision to demolish the existing buildings at the site and construct a Royal Farms gas station, car wash, and convenience store. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) for review on July 23, 2018. A SAC meeting was held on August 27, 2018. SAC comments were forwarded to the applicant on October 22, 2018.

132-138 East Main Street, Parcel IDs 1802000126, 1802000127 (PR#18-10-02): On October 8, 2018, the Planning and Development Department received a rough concept sketch plan for the property at 132-138 East Main Street. The sketch plan proposes a major subdivision for the demolition of the existing structures at the site and construction of a 4-story structure with retail on the ground level and 12 apartments on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors on the front of the lot. The rear of the lot is proposed to have parking on the first two floors with an 88-room hotel on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors, and a roof deck on top. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) for review on October 9, 2018. A SAC meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2018. SAC comments were forwarded to the applicant on January 17, 2019. Plans were received by the Planning and Development Department, along with applications for a major subdivision and special use permit, on September 3, 2019. Plans were distributed to the SAC for review on September 3, 2019. A SAC meeting was held on October 16, 2019.

287 East Main Street, Fulton Bank, Parcel ID 1802100068 (PR#19-01-01): Plans for a Comprehensive Development Plan amendment, rezoning, major subdivision with site plan approval, and special use permit for the property at 287 East Main Street, location of the Newark branch of Fulton Bank, were received by the Planning and Development Department on January 7, 2019. The plan proposes demolition of the existing structure at the site, rezoning of the parcel from BL (business limited) to BB (central business district), and construction of a four-story mixed-use building with first floor retail space, a portion of which will be used by Fulton Bank, parking areas with a drive-through, and 42 residential units on the second, third and fourth floors. A special use permit is required for residential units in the BB zoning district. As of the August 12, 2019 revised submission, this project no longer requires site plan approval. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) for review on January 7, 2019. A SAC meeting was held on March 11, 2019. SAC comments were forwarded to the applicant on June 10, 2019. Revised plans, received on August 12, 2019, no longer require site plan approval. The plans were distributed to the SAC on August 13, 2019. Staff comments were forwarded to the applicant on September 26, 2019. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Comprehensive Development Plan amendment (4-0), rezoning (4-0), major subdivision (4-0), and special use permit (4-0) at their meeting on October 1, 2019. The project has been placed on City Council agendas for October 28, 2019 (first reading) and November 25, 2019 (second reading).

54 East Main Street, Parcel ID 1802000022 (PR#19-05-02): On May 31, 2019, the Planning and Development Department received a sketch plan for a mixed-use subdivision at 54 East Main Street proposing a restaurant on the ground floor, two apartment units on the second floor, and one apartment unit on the third floor. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) on June 26, 2019.

268 East Main Street, Parcel ID 1802100024 (PR#19-06-01): On June 10, 2019, a sketch plan was received by the Planning and Development Department for the property at 268 East Main Street. The plan proposes a 52-unit apartment building on the site of the current Super 8 Motel. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) on June 26, 2019.

1 North Twin Lakes Boulevard, Parcel ID 1805400022 (PR#19-06-02): The Planning and Development Department received plans for a major subdivision at 1 North Twin Lakes Boulevard on June 14, 2019. The plan proposes to replace the currently-approved 12-unit subdivision plan with a new 24-unit townhome-style apartment subdivision plan. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) on June 20, 2019. A SAC meeting took place on September 24, 2019.

118, 126, and 130 New London Road, Parcel IDs 1801300124, 1801300123, 1801300197 (PR#19-07-01): On July 3, 2019, the Planning and Development Department received plans for a Comprehensive Development Plan amendment, minor subdivision, and site plan approval for 118, 126, and 130 New London Road. The plan proposes to convert the three existing residential dwellings into townhome apartments by modifying the shell of the existing dwellings and adding two new townhome units between the existing dwellings. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) on October 17, 2019. Staff comments were sent to the applicant's representative on November 5, 2019. The project is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed and considered by the Planning Commission at their meeting on December 3, 2019.

751 Paper Mill Road, Walton Farm Subdivision, Parcel ID 0804700003 (PR#19-08-01): On August 5, 2019, the Planning and Development Department received plans for an annexation,

rezoning, and minor subdivision of 14.48+/- acres at 751 Paper Mill Road. The plans propose to divide one parcel into two parcels in order to construct one single-family home on the newly created parcel. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) on August 9, 2019 for departmental review. A SAC meeting took place on September 24, 2019. The project is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed and considered by the Planning Commission at their meeting on December 3, 2019.

734 Paper Mill Road and 5 and 11 Possum Hollow Road, Milford Run Subdivision, Parcel IDs 0804700033, 0804700031, 080470039 (PR#19-08-02): On August 5, 2019, the Planning and Development Department received plans for an annexation, rezoning, Comprehensive Development Plan amendment, and major subdivision of the 4.75+/- acres at 5 Possum Hollow Road, 11 Possum Hollow Road, and 734 Paper Mill Road. The plan proposes annexation and rezoning to RD (single-family residential), demolition of the unoccupied dwellings on the properties, and creation of a 12-lot single-family residential subdivision. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) on August 9, 2019 for departmental review. A SAC meeting took place on September 24, 2019. Staff comments were sent to the applicant's representative on November 1, 2019. The project is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed and considered by the Planning Commission at their meeting on December 3, 2019.

532 and 540 Old Barksdale Road, Parcel IDs 1802500134, 1802500135, 1802500347 (PR#19-10-01): The Planning and Development Department received plans for an administrative subdivision at 532 and 540 Old Barksdale Road on October 8, 2019. The applicant is requesting the administrative subdivision to combine three parcels into one parcel, with ownership of the proposed one parcel being retained by the applicant. Letters were mailed to adjacent property owners notifying them of the requested administrative subdivision on October 11, 2019.

0 Nathan Hale Court, Parcel ID 1802400395 (PR#19-10-02): On October 9, 2019, the Planning and Development Department received plans for an administrative subdivision at 0 Nathan Hale Court. The applicant, Cherry Hill Manor Maintenance Association, is requesting approval to subdivide a portion of the alleyway at 0 Nathan Hale Court to a new parcel to be owned by the City of Newark to use for utility access. The alleyway will remain open for pedestrians and bicycles. Letters were mailed to adjacent property owners notifying them of the requested administrative subdivision on October 11, 2019. A letter of objection was received from an adjacent property owner, therefore the project will be placed on an upcoming Planning Commission agenda.

136 South Main Street, Suite 106, Parcel ID 1802500124 (PR#19-10-03): Plans for a special use permit for the property located at 136 South Main Street, Suite 106, were received by the Planning and Development Department on October 10, 2019. The special use permit is requested for a restaurant with alcoholic beverages. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) for review on October 15, 2019.

1089, 1091, and 0 Elkton Road and 2001 Patriot Way, Parcel IDs 1100400022, 1803800032, 1803800033, 1803800046 (PR#19-10-04): On October 25, 2019, the Planning and Development Department received plans for the administrative subdivision of 1089 Elkton Road, 1091 Elkton Road, 0 Elkton Road, and 2001 Patriot Way. The plan proposes to combine the tax parcels via an administrative subdivision with ownership to be retained by Newark Charter School. Plans were distributed to the Subdivision Advisory Committee (SAC) on October 25, 2019.

Activity or Project:**Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:****Activity or Project:****Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:****Activity or Project:****Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:****City Manager's Weekly Report****Department:**

Police Department

Notable Notes:

Auxiliary Services Division:

- On November 7, 2019, Newark Police Department's S.W.A.T. initiated a warrant service in support of the Criminal Investigation Division.

Administration Division:

- Newark Police Department will be conducting police officer applicant testing on Saturday, November 16th. Applicants will complete a written test followed by physical fitness testing. Applicants who pass both phases will then be scheduled for an oral board interview in early December.
- Awards were issued to the following officers for their work during the 3rd quarter of 2019:

Officer of the Third Quarter

- M/Cpl. J. Skinner

Citation for Merit

- M/Cpl. D. Saunders
- PO P. Klein
- CO A. Munson

Unit Citation

- M/Cpl. J. Skinner
- Cpl. R. Zappaterrini
- PO D. Faulk

Letter of Commendation

- Cpl. D. Burgess
- Cpl. J. Schwagel
- Cpl. C. Spencer
- PO A. Maiura
- PO A. Urban

Criminal Investigations Division:

- Victim Services Coordinator Melissa Pennachi attended the Criminal Justice Council's Victim Services Conference on November 13-14, 2019. Ms. Pennachi represented police-based victim services in a panel, titled "What Direct Service Providers Wished You Knew" at the conference.
- On November 12, 2019, members of CID arrested Joshua Nicholson for the 10/30/19 robbery that occurred at Modern Liquors located in the 200 block of E. Delaware Avenue. Detectives identified Nicholson through area surveillance cameras and tips received from the public. Nicholson was arraigned on charges of Robbery 1st Degree and Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony. He was given \$40,000 secured bond and turned over to the Howard Young Correctional Institution.

Patrol Division:

- On November 10, 2019 at approximately 0210 hours, a resident in the unit block of Chambers Street reported a trespasser in the residence. The victim, a female, was asleep in her bedroom awoke to find a white male standing in her bedroom. She asked him a question and he fled from the residence. The suspect ran out of a rear door towards South Chapel Street. There was no damage caused to the residence and no property was missing. The suspect was not known to the victim or any of her roommates. The suspect is described as a white male, 18-22 years of age, 6' tall and wearing a black hat, black jacket and dark pants. The Newark Police are aware that there have been rumors on social media of other similar incidents from the same evening. However, no other incidents from that evening have been reported to Newark Police.
- On November 11, 2019 at 1515 hours, Newark Police were called to the Patterson Schwartz office at 680 South College Avenue after the caller found a hidden camera in the bathroom. The caller, an employee, advised that a camera was located concealed in a stall in the women's bathroom. The bathroom was in an area of the facility where the public has access during classes offered at the facility. The device has been seized by Newark Police and does not appear to have been connected to any network or the internet. Detectives are examining the device to determine what video may have been captured by the device.

Special Enforcement Division:

- On November 8, 2019, Animal Control Officer Vickers responded to Blair Court for a report of a large vicious dog chasing children in the cul-de-sac. Upon arrival, with the assistance of Cpl. Olicker and Officer MacDowell, the English Mastiff was successfully captured.
- On November 8, 2019, Animal Control Officer Donna Vickers responded to the 100 block of Locust Drive for a report of a sick raccoon that was next to a back door of a residence. She successfully captured the animal and removed it from the property.

Activity or Project:

N/A

Description:**Status:** Completed**Expected Completion:****Execution Status:** Completed**Activity or Project:****Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:****Activity or Project:****Description:****Status:****Expected Completion:****Execution Status:****City Manager's Weekly Report****Department:**

Public Works and Water Resources Department

Notable Notes:

Staff participated in annual anti-harassment training throughout the week.

A closure of the north bound lane of Hillside Road associated with the Rodney demolition will occur on November 21 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. between the cross streets of Dallam Road and Cheltenham Road. Flaggers will be utilized to direct traffic around the work area. Alternate detours through the Oaklands neighborhood will be provided in the case that traffic begins to backup.

Bids were received for the South Well Field Treatment Plant Upgrades. The lowest bid came in higher than expected. We are exploring options for financing and will bring a proposal to Council to determine how we move forward.

The Annual Street Improvement Program continues to progress as detailed below. The schedule for the upcoming week involves the installation of the final hot mix asphalt at Stamford Drive and Hartford Place, mobilizing the paving crew to Kells Park and Lewis Park to begin resurfacing the parking lots, and curb removal and replacement at Orchard Road and Kells Park.

Activity or Project:

Environmental Working Group Water Reports

Description:

Staff has received several inquiries into the recently published and reported study on drinking water contaminants in water utilities nationwide. I have provided a memo with a response from the department and attached a copy of it here. We intend to post to the City of Newark NextDoor page.

Status:	Completed
Expected Completion:	11-14-2019
Execution Status:	Completed

Activity or Project:

Annual Street Improvement Program

Description:

Grassbusters Landscaping Co., Inc. continued the 2019 Street Improvement Program on Monday, 11/11/19 on Devon Drive. No work was performed on Tuesday, 11/12/19 due to inclement weather. On Wednesday, 11/13/19 the paving crew mobilized to Stamford Drive and completed the milling of the existing street surface. On Thursday, 11/14/19 the paving crew completed the installation of base hot mix asphalt and adjusted utility lids at Stamford Drive, while the concrete crew completed all curb removal and replacement at Devon Drive. On Friday, 11/15/19 the paving crew will mobilize to Hartford Place to begin milling of the existing street surface, installation of base hot mix asphalt, and the adjustment of utility lids. Following the completion of restoration work at Devon Drive on Friday, the concrete crew will be mobilizing to Orchard Road to begin curb removal and replacement. The schedule for the upcoming week involves the installation of the final wearing course of hot mix asphalt at Stamford Drive and Hartford Place, mobilizing the paving crew to Kells Park and Lewis Park to begin resurfacing the parking lots, and curb removal and replacement at Orchard Road and Kells Park.

Status:	In-Progress
Expected Completion:	12-31-2019
Execution Status:	On Track

Activity or Project:**Description:**

Status:	
Expected Completion:	
Execution Status:	

Digital Records Project New Documents Created – November 7-13

Name	# of Documents	# of Pages	Types
Samantha	397	2,525	NPD Files/Court Documents
Sandy	147	816	Personnel Files/Miss Utility Tickets/AP Batch Invoices/Court Documents
Fred	237	237	Miss Utility Tickets
Ana (PT)	195	1,022	Court Documents
Total	976	4,600	

Monthly Year-Over-Year New Document Page Totals

Month	2018	2019	Change +/-
January	45,288	51,476	+6,188
February	20,852	23,706	+2,854
March	25,727	32,064	+6,337
April	32,595	36,965	+4,370
May	40,272	62,286	+22,014
June	17,662	69,471	+51,809
July	23,131	45,789	+22,658
August	30,880	64,117	+33,237
September	38,612	60,329	+21,717
October	48,801	52,886	+4,085
November	43,574		
December	37,262		
Totals	404,696		

Monthly Year-Over-Year Modified Document Page Totals*

Month	2018	2019	Change +/-
January	49,088	64,516	+15,428
February	72,213	13,926	-58,287
March	52,137	42,064	-10,073
April	53,599	55,965	+2,366
May	49,087	286,052	+236,965
June	30,590	79,209	+48,619
July	30,099	48,442	+18,343
August	41,820	75,080	+33,260
September	43,957	68,636	+24,679
October	62,239	67,741	+5,502
November	46,455		
December	39,846		
Totals	571,130		

*Includes documents created in other departments, but sent to the Digital Records Division to be scanned as well as ongoing quality control updates.



American Planning Association
Delaware Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

APA Delaware 2019 Fall Conference

Thursday, November 7, 2019

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Embassy Suites Hotel, Newark, DE

Morning Sessions



Delaware Planning Law Review

Max B. Walton, Esq.
Connolly Gallagher, LLP



2020 Census Data and Visualization Tools

Noemi Mendez
US Census Bureau

Buffet Lunch



LUNCH SPEAKER

Joel Albizo, FASAE, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
American Planning Association

FULL DAY REGISTRATION

APA Member:

\$52.00 (Credit Card) / \$50 (Cash/Check)

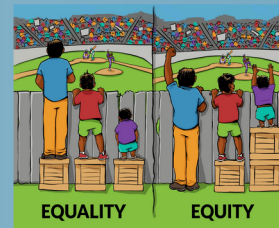
Non-APA Member:

\$72.00 (Credit Card) / \$70 (Cash/Check)

Full Time Student:

\$20.00

Afternoon Session



Interaction Institute for Social Change
Artist: Angus Maguire

Panel Discussion on Social Equity in Planning

Carlton Eley

Chair of APA's Social Equity Task Force

Karen E. Horton, AICP

Principal Planner, Delaware State Housing Authority

William Swiatek, AICP

Principal Planner, Wilmington Area Planning Council

Susan Love, AICP

Principal Planner, Delaware Dept. of

Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Rysheema Dixon

Wilmington City Council Member At-Large

Moderator:

George Homewood, FAICP CFM

Chair of APA'S Legislative & Policy Committee

Planning Director, City of Norfolk, VA



SOCIAL HOUR WITH CASH BAR

AFTERNOON-ONLY REGISTRATION

\$25.00

A limited number of partial scholarships for community members to attend the panel discussion and social hour are available.

CM credits are being requested for all sessions

Registration and Scholarship Application at www.delawareapa.org

NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

WEEK 11/03/19-11/09/19

INVESTIGATIONS

CRIMINAL CHARGES

	2018 TO <u>DATE</u>	2019 TO <u>DATE</u>	THIS WEEK <u>2019</u>	2018 TO <u>DATE</u>	2019 TO <u>DATE</u>	THIS WEEK <u>2019</u>
<u>PART I OFFENSES</u>						
a)Murder/Manslaughter	0	1	0	0	0	0
b)Attempt	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnap	1	1	0	0	0	0
Rape	14	6	0	4	11	0
Unlaw. Sexual Contact	5	5	0	6	0	0
Robbery	17	17	1	25	11	0
- Commercial Robberies	8	8	0	9	8	0
- Robberies with Known Suspects	1	1	0	2	1	0
- Attempted Robberies	0	0	0	1	0	0
- Other Robberies	8	8	1	13	2	0
Assault/Aggravated	18	22	0	25	21	0
Burglary	37	64	0	16	103	0
- Commercial Burglaries	11	9	0	2	8	0
- Residential Burglaries	24	42	0	12	59	0
- Other Burglaries	2	13	0	2	36	0
Theft	509	493	13	174	311	0
Theft/Auto	47	42	0	6	10	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other	90	95	0	89	96	0
TOTAL PART I	738	746	14	345	563	0
<u>PART II OFFENSES</u>						
Other Assaults	223	244	9	159	147	2
Rec. Stolen Property	1	1	0	17	16	1
Criminal Mischief	138	130	5	113	113	1
Weapons	12	21	0	35	62	1
Other Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	7	0
Alcohol	209	179	2	400	321	2
Drugs	127	181	5	173	275	4
Noise/Disorderly Premise	727	617	18	338	244	3
Disorderly Conduct	137	150	5	95	123	0
Trespass	205	203	3	63	79	0
All Other	341	303	3	291	391	1
TOTAL PART II	2120	2029	50	1684	1778	15
<u>MISCELLANEOUS:</u>						
Alarm	151	149	4	0	0	0
Animal Control	427	553	23	2	9	1
Recovered Property	244	199	2	0	0	0
Service	34341	29491	617	0	0	0
Suspicious Per/Veh	434	401	11	0	0	0
TOTAL MISC.	35597	30793	657	2	9	1

	THIS WEEK <u>2018</u>	2018 TO <u>DATE</u>	THIS WEEK <u>2019</u>	2019 TO <u>DATE</u>
TOTAL CALLS	878	44,483	837	39,213



Newark Police Department
Weekly Traffic Report
11/03/19-11/09/19



TRAFFIC SUMMONSES	2018 YTD	2019 YTD	THIS WEEK 2018	THIS WEEK 2019
Moving/Non-Moving	9189	10323	126	170
DUI	160	185	4	4
TOTAL	9349	10508	130	174

*Included in the total collision numbers

TRAFFIC COLLISIONS				
Fatal	0	2	0	0
Personal Injury	202	204	9	8
Property Damage (Reportable)	1054	993	28	36
*Hit & Run	229	181	3	3
*Private Property	278	234	4	4
TOTAL	1256	1199	37	44

Note: Typically, the YTD numbers are generated by adding the current week statistics to the YTD statistics from the previous reporting period. Periodically, the numbers for this report will be generated from the beginning of the year to capture data that may have otherwise been omitted due to a processing delay or other administrative anomaly, more accurately updating the year-to-date totals.



CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE

November 12, 2019

The City of Newark Public Works and Water Resources (PWWR) Department has reviewed the recently published reporting on water quality and contaminants in drinking water across the United States. First and foremost, Newark's drinking water continues to meet or exceed all state and federal standards. For more information, our Annual Water Quality reports are available on our website at: <https://newarkde.gov/645/Water-Quality-Reports>. We believe that while the Environmental Working Group (EWG) analysis is accurate, the reporting and messaging can be misleading. The EWG's intentions are rooted in concern for the public and the data they publish is generally accurate (it comes from the testing utilities are required to perform for the state and EPA), but they admittedly do not consider affordability or feasible treatment capabilities. They have created their own standards for acceptable risk, which are typically based on the California Public Health Goals (PHG), no-compromise benchmarks, and in most cases, a factor of safety of up to 10x is applied to arrive at the most restrictive standards. Here is the definition for one common threshold:

"When calculating a Public Health Goal, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) uses all the information it has compiled to identify the level of the chemical in drinking water that would not cause significant adverse health effects in people who drink that water every day for 70 years. OEHHA must also consider any evidence of immediate and severe health effects when setting the PHG. **For cancer-causing chemicals, OEHHA typically establishes the PHG at the "one-in-one million" risk level. At that level, not more than one person in a population of one million people drinking the water daily for 70 years would be expected to develop cancer as a result of exposure to that chemical.**" (emphasis added)

So, to be in excess of this standard, for cancer causing compounds at least, if you drink the water every day for 70 years you will have a one in a million chance (after 70 years) to have contracted cancer. So, for California, over a 70-year period, 40 people would get cancer. For comparison, 1 in 5 will get skin cancer by the age of 70. While we appreciate them bringing attention to this issue and agree the EPA could do more, the EWG could gain more traction at the EPA if the goals were more realistic. Many people couldn't afford water if utilities had to remove everything that exceeded the California health goal standard. We are currently out to bid on upgrades to our South Wellfield Treatment Plant and have included provisions for additional treatment measures should they become necessary through regulation or standard practice.

On the topic of whether residents should buy a filter, PWWR does not feel that there is a need, but we generally don't advise against one if a person wants to spend the money. There is no harm outside of the cost of filters and they will generally improve taste. Many of us here drink Newark water every day and passionately support our water system and quality. That said, our water fountains at City Hall have integrated filters to help improve taste by removing iron and chlorine. PWWR does specifically advise against installing reverse osmosis filters for drinking water though, as drinking RO water will deprive your body of needed minerals over time and it is wasteful in general. If you want to use a filter, go with a Brita style pitcher or inline filter and make sure to change the filters as recommended as they can harbor bacteria if left in place for too long.

Additional questions regarding water quality in the City of Newark should be directed to PWWR by calling 302.366.7000.