

## CITY OF NEWARK DELAWARE

Administrative Report June 13, 2025

## **Items for Newsletters**

- 1. Main Street/Downtown Safety: We held our final meeting of the Main Street Safety Committee to investigate and recommend changes to the downtown area to increase safety this week. We have completed our preliminary engineering review and finalized a list of 25 short, medium, and long-term recommendations.
  - The recommendations can be found on the project page of the City's website here: https://newarkde.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1506.
  - o They were also featured in a Newark Post article which can be found here:

    <a href="https://www.newarkpostonline.com/news/newark-lists-25-possible-solutions-to-improve-main-street-safety/article\_06a8aab9-ae14-431c-8f38-ae6eb934aa26.html">https://www.newarkpostonline.com/news/newark-lists-25-possible-solutions-to-improve-main-street-safety/article\_06a8aab9-ae14-431c-8f38-ae6eb934aa26.html</a>

The recommendations are scheduled for Council consideration at the June 16th Council meeting.

- 2. HB 34 Tax on Universities: HB 34 (https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=1417590), the City's requested charter amendment which would allow us to tax universities located within Newark based on enrollment, was unanimously approved by the State Senate on 5/22. It now moves to the Governor's desk for signature.
- **3. Free Parking:** Downtown parking will be free on Saturdays and Sundays from June 21 through August 10.



**4. New Castle County Review of Volunteer Fire Service:** NCC's consultant has released the "New Castle County Fire Service Financial Review and Analysis" report that was begun under then County

Executive Meyer. The report can be found at this link: <u>FINAL-FACETS-REPORT-for-NCC---12-26-2024</u>. I am not sure when this was first made available (it is dated the end of December) but I was just made aware of it this week.

As for the contents, it reviews all fire companies in New Castle County and is a behemoth, 481 pages. Here are a few helpful bookmarks so you can quickly find important sections:

- Executive Summary Page 8 (I suggest reading this section, if nothing else)
- Municipal contributions Page 51 (Newark provides the most money based on the total provided)
- o Aetna's Report Card Page 62

Here is a screenshot of the summary report card for Aetna:

## Financial Health Report Card—Factor Trends Summary 2019-2023 Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder

| #. FACTOR                | 2019     | 2020     | 2021     | 2022     | 2023     | TREND       |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| 1. Revenue per call      | \$372.59 | \$413.01 | \$377.82 | \$335.80 | \$371.64 | Unfavorable |
| 2. Expenditures per call | \$157.47 | \$367.06 | \$517.25 | \$404.00 | \$407.80 | Unfavorable |
| 3. Employee benefits     | 17.14%   | 16.26%   | 17.64%   | 26.48%   | 25.12%   | Unfavorable |
| 4. Cash position         | 22.2419  | 9.2757   | 17.8605  | 11.8652  | 16.5817  | Unfavorable |
| 5. Debt service          | 0.74%    | 0.57%    | 0.42%    | 0.66%    | 0.53%    | Favorable   |
| 6. Debt per capita       | \$59.87  | \$52.27  | \$36.49  | \$80.67  | \$58.98  | Unfavorable |
| 7. Operating position    | 0.8838   | 0.9153   | 0.9579   | 1.1060   | 0.9081   | Favorable   |
| 8. Revenue shortfalls    | 1.0673   | 1.0379   | 1.1422   | 1.0920   | 1.3539   | Unfavorable |
| 9. Expenditure overruns  | 2.2317   | 1.0689   | 0.7993   | 1.0039   | 1.1205   | Favorable   |
| 10. EMS user fees        | 148.98%  | 171.71%  | 191.22%  | 175.85%  | 164.25%  | Favorable   |
| 11. Capital outlay       | 74.09%   | 67.43%   | 17.72%   | 10.32%   | 7.03%    | Unfavorable |
| 12. Fund balance         | 13.15%   | 9.25%    | 4.39%    | -9.59%   | 10.12%   | Unfavorable |
| 13. Solvency             | 13.64%   | 15.09%   | 10.14%   | 18.00%   | 13.45%   | Favorable   |

## FINANCIAL HEALTH GRADE KEY

| STATUS | Description   | Numeric     | Est. Sustainability |
|--------|---|-------------|---------------------|
| GREEN  | Fire company is in excellent financial health and likely to survive | 100-90      | 16+ Years           |
| YELLOW | Fire company is in good financial health and might survive          | 89-80       | 11-15 Years         |
| ORANGE | Fire company is in fair financial health and might survive          | 79-60       | 4-10 Years          |
| RED    | Fire company is in poor financial Health and unlikely to survive    | 59 or below | 1-3 Years           |

GRADE **75.75** 4-10 years

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5. City newsletter: To sign up for the City's email newsletter, click here.