



# County of Passaic

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Freeholder Director Theodore "TJ" Best

**FROM:** Anthony J. DeNova, III  
Passaic County Administrator

**RE:** 2016 Passaic County Year in Review

**DATE:** December 30, 2016

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The County of Passaic (hereafter "County") continues to deliver effective and efficient constituent services to its residents – all while maintaining sound budgetary practices that protect taxpayers and make critical investments in infrastructure, parks, and economic development. Moreover, the County continues to provide a crucial safety social net that protects our most vulnerable citizens. Below is a breakdown of some of the County's services by the numbers and a year in review of our 2016 accomplishments.

### Sound Fiscal Management and Long-Term Budget Practices

- Adopted a structurally sound budget with realistic revenue projections and funding for County departments;
- Renegotiated a shared services agreement with Essex County to house juvenile defendants for an additional fifteen years saving approximately \$10 million dollars per year;
- Negotiated thirteen collective bargaining agreements that rein in insurance costs, hold salary increases to two percent, and create uniformity for policies and procedures governing employees;
- Renegotiated the County's lease with the Paterson Parking Authority to rent parking spaces for jurors and other employees saving \$50,000 per year;
- Executed shared service agreements with the Wanaque Board of Education and City of Passaic to provide IT services providing a new revenue stream for the County to maintain its private fiber optic network;
- Executed a shared service agreement with the County of Bergen to consolidate the County's Division of Consumer Protection providing enhanced services to residents and creating new revenues for the County;
- Adopted an updated employee manual to better shield the County from liability stemming from employee misconduct;
- Hired the County's first Class A PGA Professional to operate the Preakness Valley Golf Course;
- Renegotiated the long-term lease at the County Procurement Center and Warehouse to consolidate Buildings and Grounds operations and give the County a first right of refusal to purchase the property after the lease concludes; and
- Purchased the County's Planning and Economic Development and Senior Services Department offices to reduce costs and ensure efficient operations in the future.

### Protecting Senior Citizens, Low Income Residents and Veterans

- 178,303 meals delivered to 1,374 homebound senior citizens through the Meals on Wheels program;
- 56,847 lunches served to 898 seniors at County nutritional sites;
- 570 hours of Medicare counseling to 915 seniors;

- 152,339 rides for medical appointments, social day care, nutrition sites, and other activities through the Passaic County Paratransit Division;
- Processed 15,756 applications for assistance through the County's Division of Weatherization and Home Energy for emergency heating and energy assistance;
- Weatherized 28 homes, replaced 51 heating systems and weatherized three major residential developments: (1) Chestnut Gardens in Passaic; (2) Straight and Narrow in Paterson; and (3) Daughters of Miriam in Clifton – impacting 470 residents in total;
- In all, \$2 million dollars was spent on weatherization and home energy improvements; and
- Processed claims for 500 Passaic County veterans and expanded the Passaic County Veterans Stakeholder Group to expand outreach to veterans.

### **Investing in Infrastructure, Open Space, Recreation, & Economic Development**

- Distributed \$1,976,250 in grant awards to municipalities and non-profits from the Open Space Trust Fund to finance park development and recreation in Passaic County;
- Secured a \$5 million dollar grant for the rehabilitation and development of a riverfront park in the City of Passaic – a partnership between the County, City, and Trust for Public Land;
- Secured \$300,000 in grant funding to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan;
- Secured \$700,000 in grant funding to construct a pedestrian bridge across the Peckman River to create a vital link for the Morris Canal Greenway;
- Secured \$5,461,713 in grant funding for high friction surface treatment to enhance safety for County roads;
- Secured \$889,172 in grant funding for center rumble line strips to enhance safety for County roads;
- Completed the following construction projects:
  - Replacement of the Clinton Road Bridge (West Milford)
  - Camp Hope Spray Park (West Milford)
  - Passaic County Jail HVAC Phase II Replacement
  - Dey Mansion Renovation and Rehabilitation
  - Passaic County Prosecutor's Parking Lot Replacement
  - Passaic County Administration Building's Roof Replacement
  - Passaic County Emergency Management Storage Building
  - Morris Canal Greenway Phase I (Clifton and Paterson)
  - William J. Bate Memorial Court House Plaza
  - Main Avenue Safety Improvements (City of Passaic)
  - Black Oak Ridge Road and Pompton Plains Cross Road Intersection Improvements (Wayne)
  - Crosby Avenue Bridge (Paterson)
  - Preakness Valley Golf Course B-2 Bridge Replacement
- The following projects were started:
  - Replacement of the Preakness Avenue Bridge and Culvert (Wayne)
  - Replacement of the Union Street Culvert (Hawthorne)
  - Replacement of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (Passaic)
  - Replacement of the West Brook Road Bridge (Ringwood and West Milford)
  - Replacement of the Colfax Avenue Bridge (Pompton Lakes)
  - Weasel Brook Park Phase I Improvements (Clifton)
  - Grand Street Road Resurfacing and Safety Improvements (Paterson)
  - Preakness Valley Golf Course Improvements to West Hole #7
- Secured \$810,869 in Community Development Block Grant funds to assist low and moderate individuals in 12 Passaic County municipalities;

- Hosted 9 free seminars to the Passaic County business community;
- Awarded 14 Community Development Block Grant projects totaling \$719,805;
- Through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program acquired and demolished 56 flood prone properties in 7 municipalities and undertook two storm water management flood control projects in Bloomingdale and Passaic;
- Restored two important artifacts at the Dey Mansion: (1) Anthony Dey Portrait; and (2) 18<sup>th</sup> Century Mirror;
- Replaced the roof at the historic Vanderhoof House in Clifton at the Weasel Brook Park;
- Began conditions assessments for the historic Rea and Vanderhoof Houses to guide future renovations; and
- Established the Passaic County Historic Marker Program.

### **Conclusion**

I want to thank the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders for vision and leadership in helping guide these important projects and initiatives to conclusion. Passaic County continues to move in the right direction under your stewardship. I also want to recognize the department heads and employees of the County who work so hard to deliver efficient and effective programming and services to our residents.

I am certain that 2017 will be a bigger and better year for Passaic County and its residents.

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cc: Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Matthew P. Jordan, Esq. Deputy County Administrator  
Passaic County Department Heads