



For Immediate Release

**MAYOR CORY A. BOOKER ANNOUNCES THAT DEPUTY MAYOR STEFAN PRYOR WILL DEPART
THE ADMINISTRATION**

***Deputy Mayor Pryor selected as the State of Connecticut's Education Commissioner;
Mayor commends Pryor for changing Newark's economic trajectory***

Newark, NJ – September 7, 2011 – Mayor Cory A. Booker announced today that Stefan Pryor, Deputy Mayor and Director of the Department of Economic and Housing Development, is stepping down from his post following his selection to become the State of Connecticut's Commissioner of Education. Pryor's departure from the City of Newark will take place in early October when Adam Zipkin will serve as Acting Director of the Department. Deputy Mayor Pryor joined the administration in September 2006, and has supervised the City offices responsible for economic development, city planning, housing, workforce development, prisoner reentry, and sustainability.

"Congratulations to Deputy Mayor Stefan Pryor as he prepares to take on a new position and new challenges as Connecticut's Commissioner of Education," said Mayor Booker. "To say that Stefan transformed economic development during his five years in Newark would be an understatement. Despite the economic downturn, his paradigm-shifting tenure has definitively helped Newark to become a sought-after destination for world-class companies and developers – a sign that our city has changed its trajectory and is becoming a center of economic dynamism."

The Mayor continued, "From the very beginning, Stefan has been tireless and creative in pursuing his core focus: providing jobs for Newarkers. Stefan's command of his many responsibilities was a great gift to me as Mayor: he cared equally – and fought just as hard – for the plight of an out-of-work Newarker looking for a job as he did to attract new hotels and the new headquarters of Panasonic of North America. His legacy will be not only the large, game-changing projects that garnered headlines but also his broader achievements: a doubled rate of affordable housing production, the launch of an award-winning prisoner reentry program, a revitalized workforce development agency, successful financial empowerment programs, and support for homegrown entrepreneurial businesses. Stefan has continually awed me with his preparedness, his dedication and drive, and his capacity to create compelling change. Newark thanks you, Stefan. Connecticut will be lucky to have you."

In his 2011 State of the City address, Mayor Booker surveyed the over 25 development projects already under construction or ready to begin construction and announced Newark's Groundbreaking Year. These projects represent over \$700 million in development, and will result in over 2 million square feet of new or renovated space, 1,000 units of housing, and will produce over 2,500 construction jobs and over 2,500 permanent jobs.

Deputy Mayor Pryor played a pivotal role in orchestrating the deal to bring a new 150-room Courtyard by Marriott hotel to Newark, the first new downtown hotel in nearly 40 years. Pryor was also instrumental in engineering a transaction that will see Panasonic Corporation of North America construct its new corporate headquarters in Newark, a new eco-friendly tower that will be the city's first new corporate tower in nearly 20 years and bring 1,000 jobs. Pryor and his team attracted major commercial tenants and presided over the arrival of corporations like Manischewitz, Pitney Bowes, Wakefern, Audible.com, Mimeo.com, and Standard Chartered Bank to Newark.

To enhance development, Deputy Mayor Pryor oversaw the creation of the Brick City Development Corporation (BCDC), Newark's development organization. BCDC is the primary economic development catalyst for Newark, organized to retain, attract and grow businesses, enhance small and minority business capacity, and spur real estate development within the city. Deputy Mayor Pryor serves as BCDC's Chairman. Among the agency's

accomplishments are a roster of local businesses that started or expanded with the assistance of small business loans. Among these businesses are Brick City Bar and Grill, LOFT47, and Edison Ale House, which together now form a burgeoning restaurant row proximate to the Prudential Center.

Deputy Mayor Pryor placed an emphasis on housing, both affordable and market-rate, to provide a range of options for Newarkers and bring new residents to the city. Under his leadership, Newark has doubled its rate of affordable housing production, creating more than 1,200 units of affordable and public housing for Newark residents. Teachers Village, a 224-unit mixed-use complex targeted at Newark teachers, is scheduled to break ground later this year and will transform a pivotal stretch of the Halsey Street corridor in downtown Newark, creating new housing, a day care center, space for three charter schools and 55,000 square feet of retail space. The department also worked with rock star and philanthropist Jon Bon Jovi to create housing for special-needs residents. Working with HELP USA, the department is constructing the Clinton Avenue Homes, a 56-unit, LEED platinum affordable rental housing development for veterans and working families. The project includes a rooftop vegetable garden and community center.

One of Deputy Mayor Pryor's most innovative measures was the launch of the Office of Prisoner Reentry, which connects formerly incarcerated individuals with mentoring and job placement services. In less than two years of operation, the Office of Reentry has served more than 1,400 ex-offender clients and placed 890 formerly incarcerated individuals in unsubsidized employment. Participant recidivism rate is less than 10 percent. The Office also manages the innovative Clean and Green program that has provided more than 300 Newarkers with transitional work experiences in horticultural, landscaping, and urban farming projects throughout the city.

The department partnered with Newark native and NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal on a project to renovate and expand Newark Screens, Newark's only movie theater, doubling its theaters from six to 12 and adding two 3-D theaters and stadium seating. The project is currently under construction.

Under his leadership the City has operated an annual summer youth employment program that this year offered jobs to 1,500 students at 190 work sites across the City.

Partnering with Essex County and the Trust for Public Land, the City is constructing the first section of Newark Riverfront Park along the Passaic River in the Ironbound. When complete, the three-acre park will feature walking and hiking trails, a floating boat dock, a riverfront boardwalk, and green space.

The department developed the Office of Sustainability, both to oversee green development within Newark and to identify and take measures to make Newark's municipal government operations more eco-friendly. BCDC oversees the Fresh Foods Program, which cultivates new supermarkets and helps retrofit existing ones, with a commitment to offering fresh fruits and vegetables in Newark neighborhoods.

Pryor has been active in the overarching policy that shapes the City's bricks and mortar projects. The Division of City Planning produced "Shifting Forward 2025," Newark's first comprehensive Master Plan reexamination in over a decade.

In addition, he has worked with a coalition of private and public partners to help advocate, draft, and pass the Urban Transit Hub Tax Credit program and the Economic Redevelopment Growth Grant program, which are both providing critical financing for catalytic Newark projects, including the Courtyard by Marriott, Panasonic, and Teachers Village developments.

Deputy Mayor Pryor overhauled the underperforming workforce development system, including NewarkWORKS, the City's one-stop job placement center, and a youth One Stop career center. The workforce development system had been failing half of its adult federal Workforce Investment Act measures and all of its youth measures when the Booker Administration took office in 2006. Now Newark is meeting or surpassing all adult benchmarks and exceeding all youth benchmarks. The City also launched the Bank on Newark program, which provides free and low-cost checking accounts for previously underserved Newark residents.

Deputy Mayor Pryor said, "Working at Newark City Hall has been a tremendous honor. Thank you to Mayor Booker for giving me the opportunity to succeed in Newark, for articulating bold strategies and for setting lofty goals. The Mayor's personal commitment and phenomenal leadership have enabled Newark to attract the attention of top-notch developers from around the country. As I depart from my professional engagement with the City of Newark, I am profoundly optimistic about the city's trajectory. The achievements of our Groundbreaking Year represent an undeniable wave of evidence that Newark is now competing successfully for jobs and catalytic development projects in a way that has not occurred in decades. And thanks to an experienced team I leave in place, I am confident that the progress will continue. I want to thank all of my staff, and the entire Economic and Housing Development team – it has been a true privilege to work with all of you."

"Stefan Pryor is the whole package," said Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy. "His experience working as a turnaround leader in the economic development arena, combined with his leadership on education issues, will help him turn the Department of Education in Connecticut into an agency that helps prepare our state's children for whichever path they may choose. I'm glad Stefan will be at the helm of this agency to help me."

Before his work in the City of Newark, Deputy Mayor Pryor served as President of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. In that capacity, he served as the agency's chief executive. The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation was created in the aftermath of September 11th by the State and City of New York to plan and help coordinate the physical rebuilding and economic revitalization of Lower Manhattan. Deputy Mayor Pryor was the first employee of the LMDC, which was formed in November of 2001, and he served in a number of leadership capacities before serving as its President.

Previously Deputy Mayor Pryor served as a Vice President at the Partnership for New York City (where he worked from 1998 to 2001). The Partnership is the NYC's leading business organization. At the Partnership, Deputy Mayor Pryor led the organization's public education efforts and served as Executive Director of its main school reform program. After September 11th, Pryor helped coordinate the Partnership's efforts to get downtown businesses up and running again. Pryor helped found ReStart Central, which provided donated and discounted goods and services to 9/11-affected businesses.

From 1994 to 1997, Deputy Mayor Pryor served as Policy Advisor to the Mayor of New Haven, Connecticut. He is a co-founder and was the first Board President of Amistad Academy, a highly acclaimed charter school in New Haven. Amistad Academy was highlighted by the U.S. Department of Education in 2007 as one of seven schools in the country that are models for closing the achievement gap. Amistad Academy now serves as the flagship for the Achievement First network of 20 academies in Connecticut and New York.

For more information about any City of Newark policy or program, contact the Non-Emergency Call Center at **(973) 733-4311**.

-NEWARK-

Contact: Press Information Office: **(973) 733-8004**
E-mail: Pressoffice@ci.newark.nj.us

About the City of Newark, New Jersey

Newark, commonly referred to as Brick City, is the third oldest city in the United States and the largest in New Jersey, with a population of more than 280,000 people. Newark sits on one of the nation's largest transportation super-structures including an international airport, major commuter and freight rail lines, major highway intersections and the busiest seaport on the east coast.

With a new Administration as of July 2006, Newark continues to see signs of a strong revival. Its population showed growth in the most recent census. Its six major colleges and universities are further expanding their presence. The rate of production of affordable housing has doubled, and new businesses are moving in. There is still much work to be done but Newark is on its way to achieving its mission: to set a national standard for urban transformation.

For more information on the City of Newark, please visit our website at www.ci.newark.nj.us

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/cityofnewarknj