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NEWS RELEASE

Whitman on Camden Finances: We Will Take Every Step Possible to Protect City and State Taxpayers

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman issued the following statement after receiving the news that the City of Camden has filed for bankruptcy:

"Camden's action today demonstrates a reckless and irresponsible disregard not only for the city's taxpayers, but for the state's taxpayers, as well. The state pumps more money, on a per capita basis, into Camden than any other city in New Jersey. All of the taxpayers of New Jersey have a right to know how that money is being spent," she said.

"The state has an obligation to the citizens of Camden and to taxpayers across the state who are footing the city's bills to ensure that tax dollars are being spent as wisely and efficiently as possible. Reaching this goal begins with accountability, a premise that has been roundly rejected at Camden City Hall," she said.

"Despite Camden's repeated rejection of the state's offer to be a partner in it's financial recovery, we will take every step possible to live up to our obligation to the city's residents and the state's taxpayers," she said.

On a per capita basis, the State of New Jersey spends the following amounts, in municipal and school aid alone, in the following cities on a **monthly** basis. These amounts do not include other forms of aid such as EDA funding, Transportation Trust Fund, special purpose funding or other similar sources:

Camden	\$255 per person/per month
Trenton	\$178 per person/per month
Newark	\$150 per person/per month

