

The Police Force Camden Deserves

Following Unprecedented Action By Governor Christie And City And County Leaders To Combat Crime, Camden Is Beginning To See Results

"I truly believe this is a transformational moment for both the city of Camden and Camden County. Most importantly for the people, the children, the families, and the neighborhoods that they live in, here in Camden. ... A jumping off point to do something bold and necessary to address and expand upon the system that we have now, address those problems and bring law enforcement to the city, a city that deserves far better than what it's been getting."

– Governor Chris Christie, Press Conference, 5/1/13

A Larger, More Efficient Force:

Combating a public safety crisis, Governor Christie has taken aggressive action to bring about a sweeping reformation of police services in the City of Camden. With the support of the Christie Administration, the City and County of Camden implemented a ground-breaking reform by creating a county-wide force that is putting more cops on the streets of Camden, and more resources at their disposal.

- **More Officers On The Streets:** Under the reorganization, the number of police officers patrolling Camden's streets has already increased from 250 to 320. With another class of cadets graduating today, the force will increase to nearly 400 officers.
 - More than 50 percent of the new recruits hold a four-year degree or higher.
- **Cutting Edge Crime-Fighting Technology:** The new Camden County Police Force is utilizing state-of-the-art technology and techniques to combat the city's crime epidemic. From its Real-Time Crime Center, the new force can monitor over 120 citywide cameras and 35 microphones which can instantly pinpoint the exact location of a gunshot.
- **A Focus On Community Outreach:** City and police officials are emphasizing outreach to community leaders and one-on-one interactions between officers and residents as a cornerstone to ingraining the new police force within the neighborhoods they patrol and making the people partners in the effort to curb violence.

Early Signs Of Progress:

2012 was the most violent year in the City of Camden's history, and found it ranked as the most violent city in the nation. While it is too early to declare victory, there have already been signs of progress in curbing crime in the city. In the first quarter of 2014, Camden experienced a sharp decline in crime relative to the previous year:

- 30 Percent Reduction in Total Crime – Both violent and non-violent
 - The effective crime rate dropped from 15.89 per 1,000 residents to 11.32
- 23 Percent Reduction in Homicides
- 45 Percent Reduction in Assaults with a firearm
 - Assaults without a firearm are down 20 Percent
- 18 Percent Reduction in Robberies
- 8 Percent Reduction in Rapes
- 48 Percent Decrease in Motor Vehicle Thefts
- 33 Percent Reduction in Burglaries

The Philadelphia Inquirer: "Crime Plummeted In Camden In 1st Quarter" (Sam Wood, "Crime Plummeted In Camden In 1st Quarter," [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 4/1/14)

Residents Are Beginning To See Progress:

The Star-Ledger: "New police force brings hope to Camden as crime drops after years of bloodshed" (James Queally, "New police force brings hope to Camden as crime drops after years of bloodshed," [The Star-Ledger](#), 12/5/13)

- **The Star-Ledger Editorial**: "There are people walking around Camden today who would no doubt be dead if Christie, Norcross and local officials, including Mayor Dana Redd, didn't team up on this effort. So let's give credit where it's due." (Editorial, "New Camden police force makes inroads on crime," [The Star-Ledger](#), 12/9/13)

"Residents and store owners in North Camden, which had not been the focus of the first deployment of officers, say that since the new officers arrived, the drug traffic has slowed considerably." (Julia Terruso, "In Camden, 89 new officers and 17 languages," [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 12/29/13)

Camden resident Wren Ingram: "I believe this is the beginning of a resurgence ... I have felt hope many times before, but this is completely different. It's the absolute truth." (Sam Wood, "Crime Plummeted In Camden In 1st Quarter," [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 4/1/14)

- **Ingram**: "And the culture has absolutely changed ... The new recruits are very approachable. Even children are approaching them, which, before this, almost never happened. Children in this city used to be taught that law enforcement was the enemy, so this is a refreshing change."

City Business Owners Say Transition To County Force "Saved Their Businesses." "Mayor Dana L. Redd drew sharp criticism across the aisles when the one-term Democratic mayor made the egregious decision to lay off her entire police force last year, to merge with a County-run Metro Police Force. On Wednesday, city businesses said that Redd's decision saved their businesses." (Shaheed M. Morris, "New police force a boon for Camden's businesses," [The Trentonian](#), 10/25/13)

- **Camden Resident Steve Saulters**: "I noticed a big difference with the new police force. Police are visible ..."
- **Pizzeria Owner Mario Eleseoud**: "People were afraid to come here. Thanks to Metro, no one hangs out in front of my business any longer."
- **Camden Resident Nardy Hornsby**: "I see cops walking the streets. I feel safe working in the city."
- **Pharmacy Owner Al Rose**: "[Rose's] business is directly in front of a city park that authorities say, once was a park filled with open-air drug traffic and vagrants. 'Now it's really safe. I see police officers walking the beat. When I look out of the window, I see officers watching ..."
- **Camden Resident Margaret French** "... pointed out the difference in the once troubled park across from the pharmacy. 'People were always doing things in the park across the street. I come here daily to pick up my medicine and I feel safe.'"
- **Local Business Owner Zack Duz**: "In my three years of having a business here – this is by far the safest year. I see cops all over the city."
- **Lindenwold Resident Jason Walls**: "It's nice to walk down the street and not worry about getting shot. No one stands outside anymore. I hope it stays like this, that they keep it up." (Julia Terruso, "In Camden, 89 new officers and 17 languages," [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), 12/29/13)