

**DEPARTMENT of  
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC  
INFORMATION  
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**For Immediate Release  
June 21, 2021**

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## **Mayor Baraka and Public Safety Director O'Hara Kick-Off Summer Initiative 2021 with First Daily Community Roll Call**

### ***Inviting the Public to Hear and See the Instructions Newark Police Receive Daily***

Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka and Public Safety Director Brian A. O'Hara kicked-off the Department of Public Safety's Summer Initiative 2021 today with the first Community Roll Call held at Clinton Avenue between Chadwick and Seymour avenues.

"The goal of Summer Initiative 2021 is to ensure that Newark residents experience a safe and enjoyable summer," Mayor Baraka said. "We are involving every division of the Department of Public Safety in the Community Roll Calls—including police, firefighters and members of the Office of Emergency Management—to ensure that Newarkers have an opportunity to see and hear how operations will flow. Residents can also ask questions and voice concerns about their neighborhoods, offering opportunities to engage in public safety as we come back together again."

"During the Community Roll Calls, residents will have an opportunity to interact with police officers and commanders who will be assigned to walking posts in their neighborhood, and identify neighborhood problems they need addressed," Director O'Hara said. "We've brought what we typically do behind closed doors into public view. Each day during the summer months, members of the entire Newark Department of Public Safety will participate, including police, fire and members of the office of emergency management, along with other City of Newark departments, including Code Enforcement, Department of Health and Community Wellness, Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery, Newark Community Street Team and others," Director O'Hara explained.

In anticipation of increased calls for service this summer, following the sheltering in place of last year due to COVID-19, Summer Initiative 2021 will provide increased community engagement, increased uniformed law enforcement presence and proactive enforcement to facilitate pre-emptive crime reduction operations and to address quality of life issues citywide. The program will begin on June 21<sup>st</sup> and continue to Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2021.

### **Proactive Enforcement Operations**

Summer Initiative 2021 will include Newark Police being deployed to known crime hotspots, conducting walking and mobile patrols, performing road safety checkpoints, addressing quality of life and illegal dumping issues and joining Code Enforcement during business inspections. Proactive enforcement will also include narcotics operations, late-night/early morning crime reduction operations, tavern operations and juvenile curfew operations.

## **Community Roll Calls**

Each day, members of the Newark Department of Public Safety will participate in a community roll call to receive information regarding the day's public safety agenda. Community roll calls will be conducted in each precinct, affording residents the opportunity to greet precinct commanders and share any neighborhood concerns with them.

Hope One Newark, a police mobile unit offering individuals free, on-the-spot transportation to drug treatment facilities, mental health screenings, distribution of Narcan kits and HIV testing, will also be included in the community roll calls. Members of the Newark Ambassadors, a group of clergy members and community leaders who support police in community engagement activities, will also participate.

## **Youth Outreach Activities**

Summer Initiative 2021 will feature a series of youth outreach activities hosted by each Newark Police precinct. Each event will begin at 2 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. Below are a few examples of the planned activities:

- **July 1<sup>st</sup>** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct will offer a Summer Carnival at Ironbound Stadium, 25 St. Charles Street.
- **July 15<sup>th</sup>** – 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct will host a Youth Talent Show at Mt. Vernon Avenue, between Eastern Parkway and Kerrigan Boulevard.
- **July 29<sup>th</sup>** – 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct will offer a fun-filled “Paint & Play” at New Hope Village, 195 West Market Street.
- **July 30<sup>th</sup>** – 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct will host its Fun Day, featuring a raffle of bicycles and handheld electronics as well as a carnival of games and prizes. More information will follow.
- **August 26<sup>th</sup>** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct will host its “Heroes and Villains” costume event. Information will follow.

Precinct Community Service Officers will distribute informational flyers outlining additional dates and locations of upcoming summer youth outreach activities in their respective areas.

## **Newark Fire Division Open Houses**

During the month of July, the Newark Fire Division will host scheduled open houses as part of Summer Initiative 2021. These events will include youth activities, firehouse tours, free smoke detector and home emergency escape plan sign-ups, and career information for joining the Newark Fire Division.

At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, the open house of Engine 10, located at 360 Clinton Avenue, will feature the dedication of that building to the first three African-American Newark Firefighters by Mayor Baraka, Director O'Hara and Fire Chief Jackson. All are welcome to attend.

## **Pop-Up COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Stations**

Throughout the initiative, free COVID-19 testing and vaccinations will be offered at various pop-up locations throughout the city in coordination with the Newark Department of Health & Community Wellness.

“I am pleased to offer Newark residents the added security of increased uniform presence and services citywide,” Director O'Hara said. “I believe it's critically important during this summer, in particular, that residents see the Department of Public Safety working together with our law enforcement partners, other city agencies and area community groups to take a proactive stance for the safety and positive engagement of our neighbors.”