



PROJECT UPDATES:

August 22, 2013

The e-newsletters over the past several months have chronicled the progress of many of the City's capital improvements. 2013 has been a year of reconstruction and growth, as the City not only embarked on an ambitious infrastructure construction program. As these projects move forward through the design, bidding and construction phases, we will continue to provide you with updates on their progress.

Proposed City Hall on JFK Boulevard - Prior to Super Storm Sandy, the City was in the process of performing a citywide evaluation of public facilities. That evaluation identified several deficiencies within the existing City Hall and Public Safety buildings. These included spatial deficiencies, accessibility deficiencies, mechanical and electrical deficiencies, and mold issues. Prior to the storm, the administration recommended significant capital improvements and/or replacement of these facilities – and planned on advancing these projects several years from now.



During Super Storm Sandy, both the City Hall and Public Safety facilities were flooded; and the damages to each facility were such that to restore them to pre-storm conditions would involve the expenditure of significant funds; and would still not address the aforementioned existing deficiencies. Due to the extent of damages to City Hall and the Public Safety Building, all staff and operations in those buildings were relocated to the Sea Isle City Public School at 4501 Park Road.

Following several planning sessions and public discussions this past fall and winter, the Administration was authorized to proceed with development of designs for a new City Hall, to be constructed on the footprint of the existing Public Safety Building. The new municipal building will house all functions previously operated out of City Hall, along with the Municipal Court, Construction Office, Police Department, and Volunteer Fire Department operations. This decision was made with the understanding that to expend public funds on the restoration of buildings that were situated below required flood elevation standards and which, prior to the storm, already contained significant deficiencies, would not be in the best long term interest of the City. This decision was also made following consideration and cost analyses of constructing updated facilities at the locations of the existing City Hall and Public Safety sites; and of constructing updated facilities within the public school building. Ultimately, it was determined that the best location for these City services, and the most advantageous and cost effective utilization of public land, would be a consolidated municipal facility on JFK Boulevard, built to the most current building codes and flood standards.



On August 13th, City Council authorized the award of a professional services contract to Garrison Architects for completion of construction documents for the new municipal building, with the objective to go out for public bids in November and award a construction contract by the end of the year. Construction of the project is expected to take 16 to 20 months to complete.