



City of Camden **BUSINESS GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT TEAM (BGDT)**

MEMBERS

MISSION STATEMENT

“The City will work closely with all community based organizations, community development corporations, businesses, residents and other stakeholders to leverage all applicable technologies, tools and resources to implement comprehensive economic development consistent with the City of Camden Master Plan, Redevelopment and/or Neighborhood Plans.”

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The BGDT is developed in the context of a long-range vision for the City of Camden where the tax ratable base of the City is sufficient to provide quality public services for residents and businesses located there. Further, Camden can be a regional employment center by taking advantage of the waterfront, downtown, the port, commercial districts and neighborhood industrial areas for job creation and opportunities. This vision is interrelated and synergistic because maintaining a substantial base of jobs in the City will increase the number of employees who live in the City and pay taxes.

Based on an understanding of Camden’s existing strengths, weaknesses and recent development achievements and the City’s strategic opportunities, goals are as follows:

- Revitalization of neighborhoods
- Public safety
- Improved quality of life
- Increased revenue/ratable
- Job creation
- New business
- Increased home ownership
- New & restored housing units

DEFINE A PROJECT

A revitalization project is a planned physical improvement that, when completed, will contribute to the economic, cultural, recreational, tourism, social (including housing, parks and community centers) or educational development of the City of Camden. A revitalization project has a specific location within the City and costs associated with its design, construction and implementation. A revitalization project must be capable of being started in two years and completed in four years.

Revitalization projects can involve the construction or rehabilitation of buildings, supporting infrastructure (utilities, streetscape, drainage, etc.) or community facilities (parks, libraries, community centers, etc.) They can also include land acquisition and presented a credible financial and development plan for the reuse of the land that can be started within one year after land acquisition.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

Need to Target Resources: Given the limited resources available, it is important that such resources be invested to have the maximum positive impact on City revitalization. This can be achieved by making investments that have a high probability of attracting private investments and that improve the health and safety of Camden residents. It is in this context that the BGDT identifies and categorizes the City and its business districts into Key Opportunity areas that need immediate funding for physical projects to attract private sector investment and Transition/Future Development areas that need funding for exceptional and unique projects that can create a foundation for the new Camden.

Relationship with City Master Plan, Redevelopment Plan and Neighborhood Plan: The City Master Plan is the overall long term vision for the City and it will be used by City government to set policy for future development and redevelopment. It is the link to specific redevelopment and neighborhood plans.

The BGDT is intended to establish short term goals, formulate strategies and identify projects that have a high probability of revitalizing the City. The BGDT will primarily focus on “bricks and mortar” and “Human Capital” investments that should be supported by financial resources and are consistent with the Master Plan, Neighborhood Plans, and Redevelopment Plans.

Vincent Basara

Ombudsman

Dr. Edward Williams

Director of Planning & Development

Iraida Afanador

Director of Code Enforcement

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