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New Jersey relinquishes control of Camden

BY DEBORAH HIRSCH • COURIER-POST STAFF • JANUARY 19, 2010


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CAMDEN — Camden is officially liberated from state control.


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On his last full day in office on Monday, Gov. Jon S. Corzine signed off on revisions to the \$175 million turnaround effort that put the distressed city under the supervision of a state-appointed chief operating officer since 2002.

Corzine eliminated the COO's position on Monday, launching a five-year "economic recovery period" that will greatly increase the power of Camden Mayor Dana Redd.

"While much remains to be done, it is clearly time for the relationship between Camden and the State of New Jersey to enter its next phase," Corzine said.

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During the recovery period, Redd regains her authority plus powers held by the COO. She can invalidate contracts started during the rehabilitation term "for any reason," override independent boards, appoint school board members and raise taxes, which have been frozen since 2002, by 3 percent a year.

In a statement, Redd said Camden "has made major improvements in demonstrating that it is ready to begin the next chapter of its revitalization efforts.

"Camden residents elect their officials to govern and make important decisions that affect their communities and well being," she added. Without the new law, the COO would have continued in power until 2012.

The economic recovery phase still mandates state involvement, though much more removed. The director of the Division of Local Government Services will conduct an annual audit to ensure that the city is complying with state laws and report that to the local finance board. The Department of Community Affairs Commissioner will review all council action. However, council can override a veto with a two-thirds vote



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ElvisP wrote:

A cannibal was walking through the jungle and came upon a restaurant operated by a fellow cannibal. Feeling somewhat hungry, he sat down and looked over the menu.

Tourist: \$5
Broiled Missionary: \$7
Fried Explorer: \$9
Freshly Baked Republicans and Democrats: \$150

The cannibal called the waiter over and asked, 'Why such a huge price difference for the politicians?'

The cook replied, 'Have you ever tried to clean one? They're so full of s**t, it takes all morning.'

1/20/2010 12:50:25 AM

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ant856 wrote:

Replying to beckster1:

Replying to bepeaceful:

Replying to swamprat:

Camden should now pay for all costs. No extra hard working honest non-residence taxpayer money should be given to the city of Camden.

There are many honest, hard-working taxpayers in Camden, too. You've just never been there to find that out.

i've been to camden MANY times and all i see is able bodied young people sleeping til noon or hanging on the corner. the honest hardworking people that you speak of have all moved on. get over it suck it up and admit the TRUTH!






I'm pretty sure u have been to Camden MANY OF TIMES, Um was you the one buying the

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bag of Crack from the guy thats stands around all day? lol

1/19/2010 10:13:51 PM

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Leatherstocking wrote:

Expect a bitter labor dispute. Camden brought in a short-timer from the outside as the city attorney, chief labor negotiator and fall-guy, backed-up by the mayor's authority to invalidate reahabilitation-era contracts "for any reason". Query why voters continue to elect candidates who immediately turn-around and abuse them.

1/19/2010 9:32:19 PM

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beckster1 wrote:

Replying to bepeaceful:

Replying to swamprat:

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1/19/2010 8:52:34 PM

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jimmyjoe wrote:

Replying to townhallmeeting:

One question: Would this be happening if Corzine was reelected.

no it would not. they just wanted to keep it under their control. look who's mayor,

1/19/2010 8:44:17 PM

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