

MAYOR FRANK M. GILLIAM, JR.
CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY



***PRESS RELEASE ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Atlantic City Announces Successful Flood Mitigation Efforts

Atlantic City, New Jersey – The Fisherman’s Park Pump and Flood Gate project that is now in use significantly reduced flooding in the city on Tuesday, September 18th, as heavy rain and high tide brought substantial water to the area.

Mayor Frank Gilliam stated, “This is truly a neighborhood project. For years the Baltic Avenue Canal has not worked as designed and now that the new flood gates are in place, it will help reduce flooding in the city from the Ducktown area to the Inlet.” The Baltic Avenue Canal project will lessen the occurrence of minor to moderate flooding in and around the area of the canal project.

The Fisherman’s Park Flood Gate and Pump Project is part of a \$12 million effort to rebuild the Baltic Avenue Canal, which is a vital public works project constructed around 1912. The canal is 9,700 feet long, over ten feet wide and eight feet tall, and can store over 1.1 million cubic feet of stormwater when the flood gates are operational, serving a 775-acre drainage area.

The Baltic Avenue Canal has two outlets with associated tide gates: one located at Atlantis Avenue and Beach Thorofare, and another at an open canal at Fisherman’s Park. Timber flood gates were constructed in 1912 to help control stormwater collected on Atlantic, Arctic, and Baltic Avenues, as well as surrounding streets. In the past, gates would be closed during high tide events to prevent the water from entering the system and flooding city streets. By the 1960s, the timber flood gates on each end of the canal were destroyed and have not been operational until now thanks to the Fisherman’s Park Flood Gate and Pump Project.

The timber flood gates have been replaced with ten-foot-wide stainless-steel sluice gates with titanium bolts and a bronze connector. A diesel-fueled generator is the power source for the flood gates. The bulkhead has been replaced, 85 feet of new canal constructed, and two pumps installed to move water out of the canal when the flood gates are closed during high tide events and storms.

The City has invested over \$8 million to replace the flood gates, add the two pumps, and return the Baltic Avenue Canal to operation. The pumps are 250 horse power, capable of expelling 58,000 gallons of water per minute combined. Another phase of this project is in the design stage and is

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slated to add six large pumps to the Atlantis Avenue Flood Gate System to evacuate water during significant flooding events. The installation of the S.C.A.D.A. (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) will allow for automation from remote locations. A \$6.5 million grant from the State will completely fund this project.

Mayor Gilliam noted, "Atlantic City continues to work with federal and state agencies to obtain funding to improve our infrastructure and make the City more resilient to flooding."

Earlier this year, the city officials opened Phase 2 of the \$50 million Absecon Inlet Seawall and Boardwalk reconstruction project. This project has been on the drawing board for more than twenty years. When fully complete in 2019, the Inlet neighborhood of the city will be armored with rock and steel bulkheads from Oriental Avenue to Gardner's Basin. The last section of this project should be out to bid in the next few months and includes protection of Caspian Pointe as well as bike and pedestrian paths to connect the Boardwalk to Gardner's Basin.

The City has been awarded grant funds from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, New Jersey Economic Development Authority, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Department of Transportation, and New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to leverage this massive project.

The City of Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Public Works monitor all weather events and will initiate procedures to mitigate flooding throughout the city. The Fisherman's Park Pump and Flood Gate Project has greatly reduced the nuisance flooding experienced by residents.

For additional information contact Christina Bevilacqua, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor 609.347.5400.

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