



## Ad Hoc Business, Arts and Culture Committee Mayor's Advisory Committee Combined Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 7, 2024, 5:00 PM - 6:30PM  
In Person at Hamilton Stage, 360 Hamilton Street

### **Ad Hoc Committee Members in Attendance:**

Deanna Hunt – UCPAC  
Nick Rosal – Atelier Rosal  
Jeff Spelman – The Coffee Box

### **Mayor's Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:**

Heidi Loder-Rosal – Chamber of Commerce, President  
Rafael Ortiz – Academy Glass

**Guest:** Kim Farrier – UCPAC

### **Staff:**

Councilperson Danni Newbury – City of Rahway  
Anthony Armando – Special Improvement District, City of Rahway

### **Absent:**

Armanii Saahd-Tann – Rahway Dance Theatre  
JoAnn Gemenden – NJ Clean Communities  
Dawn White – Hannum's Harley Davidson  
Laura Lopez – Millie & Joy  
Michelle McTamney – Edward Jones  
Laura Bellevue  
Herve Gaspard – Gaspard Arts Academy  
Peter Kowal – Butch Kowal's Tavern

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**Welcome:** Anthony Armando opened the meeting and updated both committees on a variety of projects and then opened discussions for new business amongst committee members:

### **I. Recaps of Past Event and Projects:**

- a. Cherry Street Soiree en Blanc – 350+ people in attendance. Committee member asked if it could be expanded to include all of E. Cherry Street.
- b. ArtsFest – Committee member asked about there being higher end art possibly placed in the foyer of UCPAC.
- c. Hispanic Heritage Month
- d. Paint Rahway Pink
- e. SID Business Improvement Program and Façade Improvement Program Update - No business have received funding during the past two months. The SID is still working with a few businesses to complete their funding requests.
- f. Public Art Update
  - i. Public Art Incentive Program – Quilla is the first to apply and we are working with them to have a mural painted on their building
  - ii. 2255 Elizabeth Ave – Mural has been completed and there will be a dedication ceremony held later in the month

## II. SID Upcoming Projects & Events:

- a. Small Business Saturday – November
  - i. Cherry Street Market
  - ii. Main Street Pop Up
  - iii. Window Decorating Contest
- b. Holiday Lights

## III. Old Business:

- a. Parking Downtown – A suggested change in time for enforcement (currently until 7pm) has been made to help encourage dining.
  - i. **UPDATE:** Councilperson Newbury has let the committee know that the City will be conducting a parking study to look at the parking needs in the downtown and surrounding areas.
  - ii. It was suggested that the Parking Deck be promoted more
  - iii. Parking for Christmas was brought up by a committee member
- b. Merck – Relationship with Merck to encourage downtown daytime traffic. The Merck Discount Program discussion continues to be under review. **UPDATE:**

## IV. Open Discussion / New Business: Invitation for committee members to present new business.

- a. Cleanliness, areas of repair or areas in need of attention
  - i. Power washing pigeon poop under the trestles should be a regular occurrence
  - ii. Rainbow Striping should be refreshed for June of 2025
  - iii. Rocks/gravel by E. Cherry Street mural are being thrown and could end up damaging the mural.
- b. Downtown safety or other concerns
  - i. One committee member said that she felt unsafe at times earlier in the year because of the panhandling
  - ii. Police walking the streets has been a great help with panhandling
  - iii. Business Deliveries are difficult on E. Cherry Street due to enforcement of “no stopping”
- c. 2025 Events, Activities, or Ideas
  - i. Arts ideas: Metuchen Barrells – Hot Rods & Harleys Helmet painting contest, Music Box painting contest
  - ii. Distribute copies of the Rahway Review to Local Businesses where people gather (coffee shops, hotel, etc)
- d. Business Development Topics, Trainings, or Opportunities
- e. Concern about E. Cherry Street Redesign – brought up by multiple committee members
  - i. Trees
  - ii. Business Deliveries, Uber Eats Areas

## V. Ribbon Cuttings

### **Lawrence Architecture - 1850 Elizabeth Avenue Unit D - September 12, 2024**

Licensed to practice architecture in several states, Lawrence Architecture opened its doors at 1850 Elizabeth Avenue. David Lawrence, Architect & Founder, works on residential and commercial renovations. A full-service firm they offer field measurements, permit & construction drawings, zoning analysis, interior design and 3d renderings.

### **Barber Magic - 258 East Grand Avenue - September 18, 2024**

On September 18, 2024, Shareef Campbell opened the doors of Barber Magic located at 258 E. Grand Avenue. With over twenty years of hair styling experience, he wants his customers to know that the whole family can enjoy all of their grooming in a sleek, sophisticated comfortable atmosphere ‘where the art of grooming meets the flair of magic’.

### **United Way of Union County - 219 Central Avenue - September 18, 2024**

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Raymond Giacobbe, proudly welcomed the United Way of Greater Union County to Rahway. The Success Center, located at 219 Central Avenue, is a community-based resource hub that offers vital services and information about education, financial stability, healthy food and housing assistance. Working together with residents they have been building a stronger, more resilient Union County for 55 years.

## I. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Combined Ad Hoc Committee Meetings & Mayor's Advisory Committee Meeting  
Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm at Hamilton Stage

**Adjournment:** *Anthony Armando thanked everyone for and the meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.*