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HON. DEREK ARMSTEAD
MAYOR, CITY OF LINDEN

Mayor Derek Armstead’s vision and dedication to economic revitalization continues to transform Linden by enhancing its infrastructure, public services and quality of life for residents. His top priorities continue to include tax stabilization, an aggressive effort to reduce violent crime, to steadily increase economic stimulus for job creation and Linden’s business vitality, and to streamline municipal government operations. Since taking office, the Mayor has consistently lowered property taxes, has maintained a zero increase in sewerage taxes, and for the last three years, with the cooperation of the Board of Education, they have maintained a zero tax increase.

Since taking office as Mayor, there has been a staggering total redevelopment investment in Linden of over \$1.1 Billion, over 1,600 residential units constructed and over 5 million square feet of industrial development approved.

Commercial revitalization of the downtown and Linden Airport district, along with extensive revitalization and the cleanup of former contaminated manufacturing sites has led to many new businesses and jobs moving to Linden. Key among them is the 4 million square-foot Linden Logistics Center, the largest industrial development in the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area in one of the nation’s most vibrant industrial markets. This project alone stands to generate thousands of construction jobs and over two thousand permanent jobs. This state-of-the-art logistics park will service e-commerce and fulfillment industries, port-related uses, warehouse distribution and last-mile delivery.

Armstead is a life-long Linden resident, and his family has lived in the City for nearly 100 years. He graduated from Linden High School in 1979 and studied Computer Science at Union County College. He started his technology career at Prudential Insurance Company and was a programmer in Union County’s data processing department.

Armstead learned the importance of leadership and community service from his family. His grandparents, Linden Democratic Committee members Jimmie Lee and Henry Creed Armstead taught him that government exists to serve all people, not just the privileged.

His grandparents took in and cared for many children in need, in addition to caring for their own twelve children. Armstead followed his grandparents’ footsteps, not only mentoring displaced youth but also welcoming them into his home. “As a community leader, I have learned that change happens when individuals take responsibility for one another and for their communities,” says Mayor Armstead.

Armstead brings vast governmental experience and community leadership to the City of Linden. He served on the Linden City Council from 1993 through 2014. While a City Council member, he served on more than fifteen committees, was liaison to the Board of Health, the Mayor’s Youth Commission, and the Board of Education, and was the City Council’s representative on the Planning Board.

Armstead waged an insurgent primary election campaign in 2010, becoming Linden’s first African American to win the Democratic nomination for Mayor.

In 2014 and again in 2018, despite extreme opposition from the Regular Democratic Organization, Armstead successfully won both the Primary and the General Election for Mayor. It should be noted that it is extremely difficult and rare for any candidate running off the line to win the Primary, much less the General Election. In fact, research suggests that this phenomenon happens possibly less than 5% of the time.

Mayor Armstead is a member of the Linden Democratic Club, the Moose Lodge, the Roselle Branch of the NAACP, the Vice Chairman of the Linden Roselle Sewerage Authority and he is the Chairman of the Linden Democratic Committee.

The Mayor and his beautiful wife Danie Orelie-Armstead have raised their incredible children Erika, Brianna, Ryan, Ashton, and Abigail. Amongst their many combined accomplishments, they are most proud of their children and their continuing achievements.