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Press Release

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City Holiday Operational Schedule Announced by Mayor in Effort to Save on Energy

The City Hall operational schedule for the 2008-09 holiday weeks were announced today by Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano. In making the announcement, Giuliano stressed the change in hours will provide some energy savings to the City by enabling closures on the Fridays following Christmas and New Year's Day while also providing the public full city services for extended periods during the early part of the holiday weeks.

“This will ensure that residents have the full complement of City services available to them for longer periods of time that holiday week. Folks will be able to get in to pay their tax bills, take out permits or conduct any other city business well into the early evening,” said Giuliano. “We also save a few dollars by closing on the two Fridays. Heating the building while fully operational is a costly proposition and this way we'll save for the two Fridays following the holidays. Traditionally these days are very light business traffic days, so doing this makes sense.”

Under the agreement reached with the City's impacted bargaining units, City Hall will be open from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM Monday and Tuesday, December 22 and 23 and open from 7:30 to 3:30 on Christmas Eve, December 24 and then close for Thursday and Friday, December 25 and 26.

Similarly, City Hall will operate on extended hours for Monday and Tuesday, December 29 and 30 from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM and 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM on Wednesday, December 29. City Hall will be closed for New Year's Day January 1 and Friday, January 2.

“We’ll be back here and on a regular schedule by January 5, but we wanted to see how this worked out and if we could save a few energy dollars. It’s worth a try. I appreciate the bargaining units being open to the idea. Saving every penny helps in these lean budget times,” said Giuliano who is celebrating his 4th holiday week as Mayor.

Giuliano added, “Middletown citizens can be assured that all emergency personnel and public safety services and even snow removal, should we have a storm, will be open and serving the public as normal. This is a small impact experiment that may save us a few energy dollars, that just happens to work out because of how the holidays fall on the calendar.” The Board of Education will operate on its own pre-planned vacation schedule.

Giuliano did not rule out using this model of service in the summer months should energy costs rise or become unsustainable when energy is at peak demand. “This is a trial that could be a model for the future. I’m thinking about everything with one eye on the budget and one eye on energy costs.”