CAMDEN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

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A Special Message from Camden Community Partnership President and CEO Dana L. Redd on the Passing of Thomas P. Corcoran

On behalf of the Camden Community Partnership Board, staff, and family, it is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Thomas P. Corcoran, the founding president and CEO of what was then Coopers Ferry Development Association, and what would eventually become Coopers Ferry Partnership and Camden Community Partnership.

Tom was a visionary leader, a tireless public servant, and someone who believed deeply in Camden and her people. His compassion, intelligence, and extraordinary work ethic were legendary. Although Tom had a home in Camden, he was so devoted to his work that he often slept in the office on a small cot he kept there.

Clearly, Tom's mind never seemed to stop working. In fact, project managers would arrive in the morning to find handwritten notes on documents they had been working on the day before, which were affectionately known as his "love notes." They were filled with questions, ideas, suggestions and next steps. This just proved that even in the middle of the night, Tom was thinking about the future of Camden.

Tom's unwavering commitment to Camden was shared by many who worked alongside him and believed in the city's future. Together, they inspired one another to continually ask what more could be done for the city they loved. For Tom, this was a mindset. There was always another idea to pursue, another opportunity to seize, and another way to make Camden better.

Tom dedicated more than 35 years of his professional life to the city, first in city government and later through the organization he helped create. In 1984, he helped form Coopers Ferry Development Association with a bold vision to transform Camden's industrial, abandoned waterfront into a catalyst for a revitalized Camden. Where others saw decay, Tom saw possibility. He worked with the City, County, and business community to establish public access to the Delaware River, extend the downtown street grid, and lay the groundwork for the parks, attractions, and investments we see today.

Perhaps Tom's greatest legacy, however, was the people he inspired. He challenged a generation of urban leaders to think bigger, believe in Camden, and dream about what the city could become. One of Tom's favorite quotes was from renowned urban planner Daniel Burnham:

> *"Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a*

noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency."

Those words capture Tom perfectly. He did not make little plans. He dreamed big, worked tirelessly, and created a vision that continues to shape our city more than four decades later.

Although Tom retired from CCP many years ago, his fingerprints remain throughout Camden and his vision continues to guide our work. We are profoundly grateful for the foundation he helped build and the lasting legacy he leaves behind. We extend our deepest condolences to Tom's family, friends, and former colleagues.

Those wishing to pay their respects are invited to attend the visitation on Thursday, September 3, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 642 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey. Mass will follow at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family invites those who wish to honor Tom's memory to consider making a donation in his name to The Caplan Caring Difference Fund at Penn Memory Center by clicking this link: https://giving.apps.upenn.edu/fund?program=MED&fund=603924&bhcp=1