

The Chelsea Insider

CONNECTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO PUBLIC SAFETY

April 2024 Edition | Serving residents of Atlantic City from Texas Avenue to Annapolis Avenue



Ahmed Ahmed (far right) of Chelsea EDC, congratulates the Hamlett family for being the 100th Doorbell Camera Recipient!

IN THIS EDITION...

Atlantic City's brand is fun. It was just named the top party destination in the nation (www.BonusFinder.com). No last call, a top pick for bachelor and bachelorette parties, world-class dining and entertainment, and now recreational cannabis make the title well-earned. Residents also enjoy the fun, but when it turns to bad behavior or crime that threatens public safety, disrupts others' enjoyment, and threatens the tourism economy, what steps can a community take? In Miami Beach, officials took action to "uninvite" spring break tourists. In Atlantic City, we wonder if the very reason visitors have traditionally come to the city has become the reason visitors stop coming to the city. The City's economic development efforts are clearly challenged by crime, and one of the tools to fight crime is security cameras.

Although security cameras have raised issues of privacy, they nonetheless serve an

important purpose: monitoring public spaces to help prevent illegal behavior, making people feel safer, and solving crimes. In this issue, we explore the value of (and in our opinion, the need for) security cameras in America's Playground. We also list several actions related to cameras that Chelsea EDC has taken to increase safety for the community, including installing 100 doorbell cameras for Chelsea residents. Check out our "Speak Up" section for practical ways residents and businesses can get involved and help improve safety.



Olman Mencia stated, "The surveillance cameras provided by Chelsea EDC have provided me with reassurance, knowing that the recorded footage is clear and visible in the event of any incidents occurring in the vicinity of my business."

Mencia's Barbershop at 3109 Atlantic Avenue

CHELSEA ACTION

Since day one, Chelsea EDC has been dedicated to creating a safer environment for all community members. Following the goals of the Chelsea EDC Plan, Strategy 2.1: Interventions for a Safe Community, we have created initiatives from working on getting all street lights bright and shining to hiring detailed officers and social outreach to be the eyes and ears on the streets. And today, we're excited to share two of our most impactful projects yet!

Working hand-in-hand with the Atlantic City Police Department (ACPD), we have strategically installed 24/7 surveillance cameras in five key crime hot spots in Chelsea. These cameras function as an extra set of eyes to help ACPD respond quickly to any incidents or capture criminal evidence.

But that's not all. We've also installed more than 100 doorbell cameras on residents' front doors, empowering more individuals to keep an eye on their doorstep and report

anything suspicious. Along with the cameras, we purchase annual subscription plans allowing residents to record, backtrack, save, and share their videos in the Neighbors App.

SECURITY CAMERAS CREATE COMMUNITY

Installing security devices in your neighborhood isn't just about protecting your own home - but it's about protecting the entire community. Devices, like doorbell cameras, security cameras, and home recording devices, serve as today's version of neighborhood watch, helping to enhance community safety and bonds.

These devices don't just record criminal activity but could bring neighbors together. Picture this: you see someone snooping around your neighbor's yard. Or maybe it might be a cat rummaging through the trash, or something more serious. Either way, video devices capture it all and bring connections between neighbors that benefit everyone. With the collaboration of community members and willingness to "Speak Up", we can increase the safety of the neighborhood.

Research shows that a connected community is our best line of defense against crime. When we are more connected to each other, we're more likely to watch out for each other, report suspicious activity, and work together to keep our neighborhood safe. Closer communities have lower crime rates because people feel invested in protecting their neighbors and their homes.

To encourage community collaboration and safety, Chelsea EDC is working with

residents to provide free doorbell cameras across the Chelsea district. Join us in this important initiative to strengthen our bonds and build a safer place to live. Contact us to learn more about how you can participate.

Next time you see a security camera, give it a wave because it's not just a gadget watching for crime; it's a community member watching out for you and all of your neighbors.

- Chelsea resident posted a video on Neighbors App capturing "Random fool checking out the bikes to steal off my porch"
- Chelsea resident, Blaise B. "It has been wonderful having the doorbell camera in the palm of your hand. My mother uses it daily to see who is in front of our door without having the hassle of standing up and seeing unknown visitors. Another great feature is being able to assist the police in capturing a recent assault. Lastly, the camera footage allows me to be involved with the neighborhood."
- Atlantic City Police Chief Sarkos stated that having cameras is "a force multiplier" that extends the reach of officers into spots where they're not physically present. "It's a huge investment in public safety, and it's going to make Atlantic City safer for everybody."

CHELSEA STRATEGY

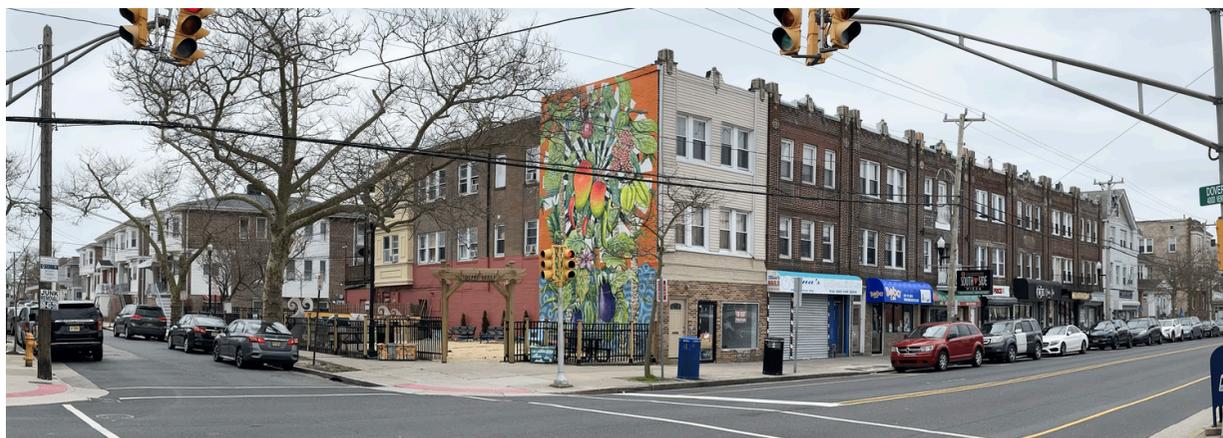
Installing security cameras is just one part of Chelsea EDC's diverse strategy to increase public safety. In fact, just about everything we do is designed to create a safer and more connected neighborhood.



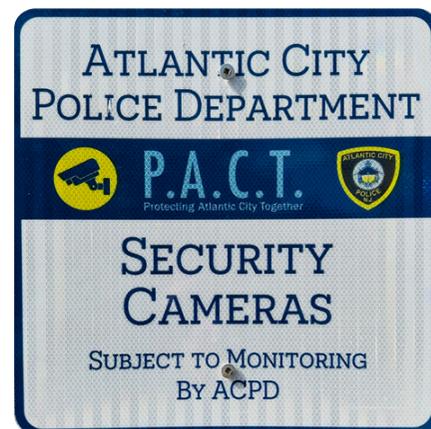
A peek of Atlantic City Headquarters for Intelligence Logistics Electronic Surveillance (ACHILES).

The Chelsea 10-year Plan has 44 strategies in five focus areas. Our first focus area and the foundation of all other areas is "strengthening community". Chelsea has an incredible diversity of people, organizations, businesses, and cultures. That diversity is celebrated, yet it creates challenges for connecting residents. Research shows personal connections increase public safety. Chelsea EDC has used special events to break down silos, bringing different groups together. Events also increase foot traffic and people which adds to safety. To date, Chelsea has organized 42 neighborhood clean-ups, 18 markets, 3 festivals, 2 block parties, 16 public meetings, and over 100 fitness classes.

Singer-songwriter and author Dar Williams writes about "positive proximity" in her book *What I Found in a Thousand Towns*. She defines it as "a state of being where living side by side with other people is experienced as beneficial." She documents that this characteristic of towns is what makes people want to live there. Let's work together to create more positive proximity in Chelsea.



Point of view for security camera located at Ventnor and Atlantic Ave. As part of the Dover Park & Community Garden beautification project, Chelsea EDC funded security cameras that feed into the Atlantic City Police Department's Project P.A.C.T. (Protecting Atlantic City Together).



Become a proactive citizen and...



Ways to report Safety Concerns/Emergencies

Emergency Number	911
Non-Emergency Number	(609) 347- 5780
Anonymous Tips	Text "ACPD" and your message/tip to 847411
Atlantic City Police Citizen Services Program	 https://atlanticcity.prophoenix.com/#/home

What's Happening in Chelsea



Join Our Team!
CAREER & HEALTH FAIR

April 29th 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Sovereign Avenue School
 111 N. Sovereign Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Light refreshments will be served

AtlantiCare's Health Engagement Team will also onsite for health education and screenings

Any questions, please contact Christian Ragland at Christian.Ragland@atlanticare.org





Sunday Clean-Ups

We need YOUR help!
 Weekly Neighborhood CLEAN-UPS
 SUNDAYS from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 FREE food. Please come JOIN us.

iNecesitamos TU ayuda!
 LIMPIEZAS semanales en Chelsea
 DOMINGOS de 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Ver al otro lado de este impreso para las ubicaciones semanales.
 Comida GRATIS. Ven y ÚNETE a nosotros.

Chúng tôi cần sự giúp đỡ của bạn!
 Vệ sinh khu phố hàng tuần
 Chủ nhật Từ 11:00 AM đến 1:00 PM
 Xem mặt sau để biết các địa điểm
 Có thức ăn miễn phí!

সাপ্তাহিক পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মসূচি:
 আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন।
 প্রতি রবিবার সকাল: 11 টা থেকে 1 টা!
 আসুন এবং আমাদের পরিচ্ছন্ন অভিযানে যোগ দিন।
 স্বেচ্ছাসেবক প্রয়োজন - আসুন বিনামূল্যে খাবার উপভোগ

Food Gift Certificates for consistent volunteers!

Rain Date(s) - Monday(s) same time



Calendar

Meet at corner of Ventnor Ave and Street Below

March 31th - Annapolis Ave
 April 7th - Dover Ave
 April 14th - Harrisburg Ave
 April 21st - Trenton Ave

Meet at O'Donnell Park

April 28th - St. David's Place
 May 5th - Providence Avenue

Meet at corner of Atlantic Ave and Street Below

May 12th - Boston Ave
 May 19th - Sovereign Ave
 May 26th - Montpelier Ave
 June 2nd - Chelsea Ave
 June 9th - Morris Ave
 June 16th - Brighton Ave
 June 23rd - Iowa Ave
 June 30th - California Ave
 July 7th - Texas Ave

Business Spotlight

BOBA TEA IN A.C.

Are you looking for delicious and healthy smoothies close to home? Or does Boba Tea strike your interest? Look no further than Boba Café.

It's hard not to be tempted by Boba Café located at 4006 Ventnor Avenue for lunch or dinner. Open every day (except Wednesday) from 11:00 A.M. till 9:00 P.M. Jeffery and Mimi Chen have owned and operated the restaurant for nearly four years. "We enjoy introducing new customers to our Bao's and Bubble Tea. I find it to be the most rewarding experience," says Jeffery.

You might be wondering, "What is Boba Tea?" Boba is the bite-sized, chewy tapioca pearls found in bubble milk tea. Boba Café has a lot to choose from. Among the beverages available are milk teas, fruit teas, smoothies, and specialty drinks. They have the most authentic bubble tea in town and are regarded as the best Asian spot in Atlantic City by their customers. The staff is friendly, the place is clean, and the service is fast.

They also offer "Bao" cuisine at Boba Café in addition to their specialty drinks. The term bao is unfamiliar in mainstream culinary vocabulary, but basically, bao is a soft steamed, fluffy dough with various fillings.

Visit Boba Café or check out their new website www.BobaCafeAC.com. You will discover all their amazingly scrumptious menu items, from small bites to their new "Build Your Own Bowl" with chicken, beef, shrimp, or pork. The prices are reasonable and there is something here for everyone.



Proud owner of Boba Café, Jeffery and Mimi Chen, located at 4006 Ventnor Avenue.

Chelsea EDC is a non-profit organization established in 2019 to increase economic opportunity in the Chelsea neighborhood of Atlantic City. Since then, we have been asking what would make the neighborhood better. Your answers make up 44 strategies outlined in the Chelsea 10-year Plan. In 2021, we started putting the Plan's strategies into action through exciting community events, impactful beautification and public safety programs, significant grants for homebuyers and businesses, local business marketing and promotion, and connecting residents with career opportunities. We hope you noticed our work and even participated in our programs!
For more information, www.ChelseaEDC.org/Plan

MAJOR FUNDERS



Fulton Bank



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.CHELSEAEDC.ORG/THECHELSEAINSIDER
TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE NEWSLETTER!

YOU CAN ALSO FIND THE SPANISH AND ENGLISH DIGITAL
VERSIONS OR LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST.

