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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 8, 2012**

**Planning and Development Director Roy Lopata Retiring  
After 37 Years of Service**

**Newark, DE** (February 8, 2012) – Roy Lopata, Planning and Development Director and Newark resident, will retire after 37 years with the City of Newark. Lopata announced his plan to retire in August 2011. His last working day will be February 24.

Lopata began his career with the City of Newark in October 1975 as an Administrative Assistant in the City Manager’s Office. He was soon promoted to Planning Director in July of 1977. In 1998 his duties expanded when he became responsible for downtown parking and expanded again in 2009 when the Building Department was merged with the Planning Department and his title was changed to Planning and Development Director.

“Roy will be greatly missed. His knowledge of the City will be hard to match as he has been a City resource for all things Newark, past and present,” says Mayor Vance Funk, III.

Lopata’s list of achievements is long. Some of his and the Planning and Development Department’s major accomplishments under his leadership include:

- The administration of the downtown revitalization program that began the renaissance of Main Street and downtown Newark culminating in the 2011 Great American Main Street Award.
- The Planning and Development Department designed the award winning plans for the Newark Traffic Island Beautification Project.
- The preservation of the “green” gateways to Newark on Nottingham and New London Roads, Kirkwood Highway, Paper Mill Road and South College Avenue, so that when a person enters Newark from any of those major roads they would be greeted with open landscaped and beautified space instead of commercial strips.
- The ongoing revitalization of Elkton Road land uses.
- The attractive and successful industrial parks on Elkton Road and Sandy Brae Road.
- The City’s Historic Preservation Ordinance that resulted in the protection of such buildings as the Deer Park, the Newark Diner (currently Chee Burger Chee Burger), the Bank of Newark Building (currently Catherine Rooney’s Irish Pub and Restaurant) among others.

- Lopata was co-chair of the committee that pushed to include an Asian Wars Memorial at the Academy Street Lawn along with the World War II Memorial.
- The Planning and Development Department was instrumental in getting the Christina Parkway built in 1983.
- Roy Lopata was the designer of the Unicity Bus System in 1980 along with now City Councilman Doug Tuttle. The system is still in use today and administered by the Planning and Development Department.
- The acquisition of hundreds of acres of parkland and White Clay Creek and Christina stream valley open space.
- The purchase of the site of the Newark Reservoir.
- Roy Lopata wrote three Newark comprehensive plans including the State's first annexation plan.

Lopata also served as staff on the Planning Commission, attending over 300 Planning Commission meetings, not to mention over 850 City Council meetings during his career. City Council will recognize Lopata at his last City Council meeting on Monday, February 13, for his exemplary and dedicated service to the City and for his great successes and continually improving the quality of life for the residents of Newark.

Roy Lopata will be honored at a dinner on Friday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. at the Clayton Hall Conference Center. Anyone wishing to attend may contact the Planning and Development Department by February 17 at (302) 366-7030.

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