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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CITY OF NEWARK HOLDS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OPEN HOUSE**

**Newark, DE** (October 15, 2012) – The City of Newark Planning Commission is hosting an open house to gather public input for updating the City’s Comprehensive Development Plan on **October 23, 2012 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Newark Municipal Building, 220 Elkton Road**. The public is invited to “drop in” to review exhibits, vote on community needs and policy preferences, and to discuss Newark’s strengths, challenges, and opportunities with City staff and community members to help craft goals for the future of the community. There is no formal presentation scheduled for the open house.

The Comprehensive Development Plan is a strategic policy document that provides a vision for the community’s future, addresses both short-term and long-term planning concerns, and provides a rational basis for local land use decisions. The State of Delaware requires all local governments to prepare and adopt comprehensive development plans and to review those plans every five years. This is the fifth update of Newark’s Comprehensive Development Plan since its first long-range comprehensive plan adopted in 1969.

The intent of the comprehensive development planning process is to develop and integrate Newark’s plan for land use, annexation, redevelopment, economic development, housing, transportation, infrastructure, natural and cultural resources, and intergovernmental coordination.

The comprehensive planning process is a highly participatory process, involving city residents, business owners, city and university officials, interest groups, and many others interested in the future of Newark. “Public input is a cornerstone of the planning process and input from the community is vital to the Plan,” said Michael Fortner, Development Supervisor for the City of Newark’s Planning and Development Department.

The 18-month planning process effort began at Newark Day this past June. It includes a series of public workshops and meetings sponsored by the Newark Planning Commission. Public feedback from these meetings assists the Planning Commission in developing a recommendation to City Council for their adoption.

For more information about the City of Newark’s Comprehensive Development Plan project, please contact Michael Fortner, Development Supervisor, at 302-366-7030 or e-mail: [mfortner@newark.de.us](mailto:mfortner@newark.de.us).

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