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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Newark's Mayor and City Council Approve Smart Meter Project

Newark, DE (December 11, 2012) – Newark's Mayor and City Council voted unanimously to approve the \$11.7 million citywide smart meter project at Monday night's City Council meeting. The project includes the replacement of all electric and water meters within Newark's service territory with new, more accurate state-of-the-art "smart meters".

Installation of the smart meters will begin shortly after the New Year and is scheduled to take up to a year to complete. The long installation period was implemented to avoid being overly aggressive with the installs taking place at residents' homes. Electric Department Director Rick Vitelli and Public Works and Water Resources Director Roy Simonson will lead the project with assistance from the City Manager's Office. "Newark's team is ready to go and enthusiastic about the increased efficiencies and operational improvements this project offers," says City Manager Carol Houck. "I cannot express how I appreciate all of my staff that worked so hard to bring the project to Mayor and City Council. They truly had the best interest of the City in mind."

Newark's Mayor and City Council made the decision to dedicate \$5.7 million in operational cost savings and Honeywell's Annual Meter Accuracy Guarantee of more than \$15 million over 15 years, both realized by the installation of the new meters, to fund all costs including that of its financing instead of utilizing the funds elsewhere in the organization.

The public was informed of the details of the project on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 through a series of public information sessions presented by City Manager Carol Houck and representatives from Honeywell. Each well-attended session was followed by a question and answer period and the opportunity to visit booths with equipment and information from the project partners including Elster (electric meters), PMI (meter installation), Northstar (web-based interface for customers), Tropos (wireless mesh) and Honeywell.

Key facts about the smart meter project:

- \$11.7 project cost, which pays for itself through operational savings and increased revenue related to improved water meter accuracy;
- Anticipated 15 year cash flow of \$2.8 million;
- More efficient water and electric meter reading (water will also be read monthly);
- Organizational efficiencies;

- Reduced operating costs;
- Website with up-to-date customer utility usage information;
- Increased opportunities for leak detection - water conservation;
- Outage management improvements - increased reliability;
- Positive public safety impacts (cameras and laptops);
- A wireless mesh that provides greater field operation capabilities for several departments including Police and Code Enforcement Division of Planning and Development.

Information about the smart meter project may be found on the City's website at [www.cityofnewarkde.us/smartmeters](http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/smartmeters).

***Attached photo (left to right): Electric Department Director Rick Vitelli, Electric Department Assistant Director Sam Sneeringer, Public Work and Water Resources Department Director Roy Simonson, City Manager Carol Houck, Interim Finance Director Wilma Garriz, Customer Service Supervisor Larissa Jones, and System Support Specialist John Herring.***

