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## BUDGET EDITION 2016

Capital Impact Group is one of the "Big Shots on State Street"

*-The Star Ledger*

## State House Happenings



**Happening Now... Governor Christie just signed a \$34.5 billion budget two hours before the start of the State's new fiscal year.**

Christie used his line-item veto authority to slash much of the \$280 million Democrats added to his originally proposed plan. The 2017 budget includes the largest pension payment in New Jersey history with a \$1.9 billion contribution to the State's defined benefit funds.

**Impasse on TTF...** In a contentious back-and-forth between the Governor, the Assembly Speaker and the Senate President that has played out all this week, the Senate recessed today without acting on a bill approved by the Assembly on Monday and supported by the Governor which would have increased the State's gas tax by 23 cents and decreased the sales tax from 7 to 6.5%. Both houses are expected to return in July to negotiate a resolution on how to replenish the now insolvent Transportation Trust Fund, which finances the maintenance and construction projects of New Jersey's transportation infrastructure.



## Out & About



Senate President Stephen Sweeney recently made time on a busy legislative session day to welcome our friends from BAYADA Home Health Care to the State House. Donning BAYADA red, dozens of employees were in Trenton to participate in the company's innovative Ambassador training program.



Last month CIG Principal **Gene Mulroy** was privileged to join a distinguished group of **New Jersey Girl Scouts**, as they briefed **Senator Cory Booker** about their public service projects. Their work earned the girls their **Gold Awards**, the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. The Senator was impressed and inspired by their work and told the awardees that he "believes I'm in the presence of future women leaders, destined to do great things."

**Minimum Wage Hike**...Last week the state Senate approved legislation that would immediately increase the State's minimum wage from \$8.38 to \$10.10, and then incrementally each year until it reaches \$15 by 2017. It is expected that the Governor will veto the measure and the Democrat-controlled Legislature likely will take steps necessary to place a question to raise the minimum wage on the November 2017 ballot and let voters decide the issue's fate.

## Movers and Shakers

**Governor Christie** recently named **Deputy Chief of Staff Matt Moench** to head the newly-created Office of Constituent and Community Relations in the Office of the Governor. The longtime Bridgewater Township Councilman and attorney joined the administration earlier this year.



After fifteen years in the private sector, and serving a stint as an aide to the late **Senator Frank Lautenberg, George Helmy** is now **Senator Cory Booker's State Director**.



Helmy, a native of Jersey City, had previously served as Senator Booker's Deputy State Director. In other Booker news, **Hanna Mori** was promoted to **Deputy State Director** after serving as Deputy Counsel. Mori's tenure with Booker spans back to his days in Newark City Hall, where she served as Criminal Justice Policy Research Fellow.

**Victoria Brogan** was recently promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff at the NJ Department of Health. For the last six years she served as the Director of Legislative Services for the Department.

**Justin Rodriguez** is the new Chief of Staff to **Assembly Health Chairman Herb Conaway**. Prior to his promotion, Rodriguez served as a legislative aide in Conaway's office and previously was a campaign advisor for winning contests in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> legislative districts. He replaces **Jonathan Chebra**, who was recently named Director of Government Relations & Policy at the New Jersey Hospital Association.

**Tim Mulhall** is the new chief of staff to **Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick**. The lifelong law enforcement official had most recently been overseeing constituent matters in Bramnick's district office. He replaces attorney **Keith Loughlin** who recently returned to the private sector.

We agree!!



After hours fun! Team CIG hosted a cocktail reception for longtime friend of the firm and only female member of the New Jersey congressional delegation, **Bonnie Watson Coleman**. A great group of attendees were on hand to show their support for Congresswoman Watson Coleman, including **Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson** (above).



**Shantè Palmer** was a facilitator for a study commissioned by the **National Women's Business Council** and the **U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy**. The event was hosted by Walker's Legacy and held at Essence's NY corporate office.



CIG's **Sabeen Kalyan-Masih** and **Briana Piserchia** recently participated in the wildly successful **2016 Women of Distinction Awards** hosted by the **Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ**. It was an absolutely amazing event and had so many inspiring stories!



**Tai Cooper, Jason Redd, and Chris James** were honored by the Network Journal, in their annual "Forty Under 40" list which recognizes young accomplished African-Americans. Cooper serves as the Chief Policy Advisor of Newark, Redd is Counsel in Gibbons Law Government Affairs Department, and James is the Executive Director of the NJ Democratic State Committee.



**David Weinstein** is the state's new Chief Technology Officer and member of Governor Chris Christie's cabinet. As New Jersey's first cyber-security adviser, Weinstein greatly understands the sensitivity issues surrounding cyber security, especially since he has been a victim of identity

theft himself. Governor Christie has brought on Weinstein in hopes of modernizing state government and making both the private and public sector more accessible online. David Weinstein comes from New Jersey's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, and has previously worked at the Pentagon.

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**In Memoriam**

West State Street recently lost an icon. **Hal Bozarth**, executive director of the Chemistry Council of New Jersey and longtime Trenton insider died earlier this month. He was 67. Hal was a widely-respected advocate whose good nature and affable



personality graced West State Street and the halls of the New Jersey State House for more than thirty years. A friend of CIG's, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Debbie and son, as well as to our colleagues and West State Street neighbors at the Chemistry Council of New Jersey.



Sadly, New Jersey has lost a dedicated and widely-respected public servant. Former State Senator **Raymond Bateman** died earlier this week at the age of 88. Bateman served in the Legislature for two decades and was the Republican's candidate for governor in 1977. His son, Senator Christopher "Kip"

Bateman, currently serves in his father's Senate seat.

**CIG Client Spotlight**



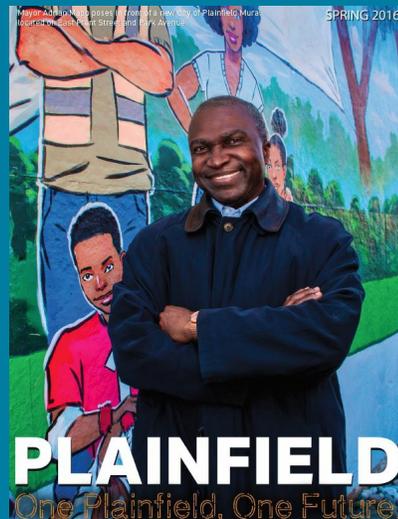
Earlier this month CIG's **Sabeen Kalyan-Masih** spoke on a "Careers in Government" panel hosted by the **Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP)**.



Team CIG (less Paul Crupi, who was serving as groomsman at another wedding at the same time) was thrilled to celebrate the truly spectacular wedding day of its colleague Sabeen Kalyan-Masih to Andrew Steffens last month. It was a wonderful affair complete with an outdoor fireworks display and stunning double-rainbow which miraculously appeared in the sky soon after the bride and groom took their vows. The CIG family wishes Sabeen and Andrew a lifetime of good health and happiness.



**ODM Client Spotlight**



Open Door Media is proud to partner with Plainfield Mayor Adrian Mapp to produce his latest addition of the [Plainfield newsletter](#). The quarterly



The [Collaborative for Student Success](#) is non-profit organization working to improve public education through a commitment to high standards for all students.

newsletter which ODM creates and designs, highlights the important policy, redevelopment and neighborhood goings on in the Queen City. It also informs City residents of the many accomplishments this Mayor has achieved in his short period of time in office. We are very excited to be a part of this ongoing dialogue with the City.

## Who We Are



[Capital Impact Group](#) is a bipartisan, full-service public affairs and business development firm based in Trenton, NJ, 37 steps from the front door of the State House. We offer a wide range of services to help our clients manage the realities of today's political, economic and regulatory environment and the ever-changing dynamics in the State of New Jersey and Washington, D.C.



[Open Door Media](#) is a fast-growing public affairs and communications firm focused on delivering results for our corporate, government and non-profit clients.

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