

UPROAR OVER FILM A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE CIVILIAN DEATH TOLL IN THE WAR IN GAZA SPARKS BACKLASH FROM SOME OF ISRAEL'S LEADING OFFICIALS. 16

Sundia

The Star-Ledger



Illustration by Chris Morris, Advance Local

NEWARK

Grocery stores selling food at a discount thanks to new initiative

Program spearheaded by Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka is similar in some ways to one proposed but not yet implemented by his New York City counterpart, Zohran Mamdani.

Steve Strunsky NJ.com

Peter Rosario held up a 9.6-ounce container of Folgers coffee for the crowd of 100 fellow nonprofit executives, Newark city officials and shoppers to see, and compared its price there at the publicly subsidized grocery store to what he said commercial grocers typically charge.

“So this is \$8.99 — nine dollars!,” said Rosario, executive director of the Newark-based Casa De Don Pedro, a Latino-focused social services provider. “We’ve got it priced at \$7.49.”

After the applause died down, another local nonprofit executive, Vesta Godwin Clark of the St. James Social Service Corporation, held up a jar of pickles that she said ShopRite sells for \$3.79, but was just \$3 at the new store.

The New Street store, called “Our Community Grocery Store” and run by Clark’s organization, is one of five nonprofit, city subsidized groceries that have opened this month under an initiative by Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka to help keep his rapidly developing but still largely working class city affordable.

“Food access at an affordable price is a simple good that all Newarkers, and all people, deserve,” said Baraka, who joined the stores’ nonprofit operators for an announcement of the program at the store on Thursday. “No resident of the city should feel like their family doesn’t have enough food, or that they can’t afford to get more.”

Officials said the nonprofits operating the five groceries were each awarded a \$250,000 grant by the city based on a review of their qualifications.

The grants are essentially seed money the groups are free to use for capital or other start-up costs, inventory, salaries or other costs, said Rosario, whose group opened its

GROCER LOCATIONS

- The five Newark grocers and their nonprofit operators are:**
- 312 New St., Central Ward, (St. James Social Service Corporation)
 - 39 Broadway Ave., North Ward, (Casa de Don Pedro)
 - 296 Ferry St., East Ward, (Mantena Global Care)
 - 393 Hawthorne Ave., South Ward, (Clinton Hill Community Corporation)
 - 503 Central Ave., West Ward, (United Community Corporation)

store at Casa de Don Pedro’s Broadway complex.

Pricing guidelines for the stores include a maximum markup of 30% above wholesale.

The Newark initiative is similar in some ways to one proposed but not yet implemented by New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who also hopes to offer his constituents a lower-priced alternative to commercial outlets.

The two initiatives differ in that New York City would own the discount grocery stores and contract with private operators required to price goods be sold at 30% below retail, while Baraka said that Newark neither owns nor operates the stores in his city.

That said, Newark does monitor the operation of the stores, through its Office of Sustainability, Resilience and Community Transformation.

The New York Times reported last month that the Mamdani administration was sued by a group of New York City grocery store owners known as the Multicultural Business Coalition, charging the city’s discount food stores would unfairly undercut their businesses.

Baraka said Sept. 10 he had not heard from any groups in Newark or New Jersey with similar concerns.

SEE GROCERY STORES, A4

COMMENTARY

Can Chris Christie save GOP party in N.J. — again? He’s going to try.

Blast from the past wants to chart the future of Jersey’s Republicans.



Tom Martello NJ.com

No, Mikie Sherrill isn’t having a great month. The Democratic governor is taking heat for how she’s handled the still-unresolved saga over her lieutenant governor and a complaint that he acted inappropriately toward women. There’s the ongoing flack (and a just-finished congressional hearing) from the Phil Murphy-era revelation that thousands of non-citizens were registered to vote. And there’s the embarrassment of seeing a famed company best known as the Burlington Coat Factory decide to move its headquarters to Philly — and abandon the very New Jersey city in its name!

But you know who is having a worse month? New Jersey Republicans. Even with these open shots Democrats are gifting them.

New Jersey Republicans have had bad month after bad month for the better part of the last decade, losing elections in stunning fashion even as voters remain grumpy at how Democrats are running things in Trenton. Just last week, a new poll showed U.S. Rep. Tom Kean Jr. trailing in his 7th District race, and one respected House race watcher now says it “leans Democrat.” With Jack Ciattarelli’s big loss to Sherrill last year still stinging and Donald Trump always looming, GOP insiders couldn’t be blamed if their faces are frozen in a perpetual wince.

Emerging from all this GOP turmoil is a colorful blast from Jersey’s past: Chris Christie, Jersey’s last two-term Republican governor, is raising money for candidates, an active presence at events and telling anyone who will listen that the party can’t capitalize on anger against Dems if it doesn’t change its ways.

“We need to acquaint ourselves with what it takes to win as a Republican in New Jersey,” Christie told me. “We’ve now proven that, for the last eight years, our party has been, on statewide issues, irrelevant.”

You won’t get much argument from many Jersey Republicans, who, at various times this year, have described their party as “confused,” “drifting” and living

SEE MARTELLO, A2

Chris Christie recognizes the Republican party in New Jersey has become “irrelevant” in some areas. APfile

STATEHOUSE

Calls for funding probe

Lawmakers react to NJ.com investigation on opioid settlement fund spending. A3

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