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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 10, 2013

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Mayor Fulop Announces Installation of Four High-Volume Pumps for Downtown to Reduce Repeated Flooding; Project is Capital Investment to Improve City Infrastructure

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and officials from **the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA)** will install the **fourth of four high-volume pumps** at the Essex Street netting facility at **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013**, at the foot of Essex Street near the Colgate Clock.

Each of the **four 60 Horse Power, 20-inch discharge pumps** discharges approximately 1,400 gallons per minute for a total capacity at the storm water pump station of 80,000,000 gallons per day.

“These pumps are an infrastructure improvement I first worked on as Councilman and now as Mayor am pleased to see installed, especially following last year’s devastating hurricane,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “As we grow our city, we must ensure that our infrastructure meets the needs of our growing community. For too long residents throughout Jersey City, but especially in the downtown area, have endured repeated flooding and these pumps will help prevent that.”

During Hurricane Sandy and other serious storms, residents in the Paulus Hook and downtown neighborhoods saw their homes flood as a result of upstream flooding. This is particularly true for times of high tide during a storm. Experts say storms such as last year’s hurricane are occurring more often and these pumps make Jersey City better prepared.

The MUA paid for the submersible pumps, which cost approximately \$2.5 million, using capital funds and did not bond for the project so there would be no long-term cost to residents.

“Even during the recent Nor’Easter when the first three pumps were already installed, we saw how helpful they were in reducing upstream flooding,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We are continuing to work with the MUA on adding pumps in other key flood-prone areas of the city over the next several years.”

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Historically, at the Essex Street netting facility, storm flow would create excess flow levels resulting in flooding into downtown property owner's homes. To help combat this reoccurring problem, the City – led by the efforts of Councilman Fulop – worked to figure out a long-term solution, which resulted in the installation of the pumps which will discharge excess water directly into the river.

The City also worked with community stakeholders such as area residents and downtown neighborhood associations and several state agencies including the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP).

Tad Drouet, one of the community members and homeowners who was part of the process, spoke about the initiative and how the pumps will be an asset to Jersey City.

“We would like to thank Mayor Fulop for making the pumps happen. His help included responding to literally hundreds of emails, meeting with the community and helping to coordinate all of the departments and agencies involved. The obstacles were numerous, and without this assistance, the pumps might well never have become a reality. It will be a real relief to see the sewers in our neighborhood pulling storm water through them rather than pushing it back into houses and streets during heavy rain events. This is a real step forward in protecting the health and safety of our families.”

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary for Mayor Steven M. Fulop, at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////