



CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Fulfilling a Campaign Pledge, Councilwoman Osborne Advances Ordinance to Hold Contractors Accountable When Opening City Streets by Requiring Full Repaving of Roadways

Measure Protects Millions of Taxpayer Dollars Spent Annually on Road Infrastructure

JERSEY CITY – Fulfilling a pledge made during the campaign, **Ward E Councilwoman Candice Osborne** is advancing an ordinance that will hold contractors accountable for fully repaving City streets following the completion of any utility work. The measure, which is up for final adoption by the City Council next week, protects the millions of taxpayer dollars the City spends annually on road infrastructure.

“Jersey City invests heavily to maintain our roadways, only to see them torn up by utility contractors months, weeks and sometimes even days after the work is completed,” said **Councilwoman Osborne**. “We’ve seen this idea work in other cities and from now on when we spend millions of dollars to repave our roads, they are going to last or be replaced by those who destroy them.”

For years, residents have complained about the patchwork of asphalt along city streets left by contractors, contributing to potholes and the undermining of roadways. In 2014, Jersey City spent \$1.7 million – a combination of capital funds and State DOT grant dollars – on street resurfacing projects citywide.

Modeled after the successful Union City road-resurfacing program, the ordinance specifically prohibits the opening of streets repaved in the last five years – excluding for emergency repairs – and requires contractors to repave block-to-block any road that has been resurfaced by the City within the last 10 years.

“Councilwoman Osborne’s ordinance speaks to the work we are doing to make City government more efficient and to be strong stewards of taxpayer dollars,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “This ordinance will go a long way to ensure the positive investments we are making into our City are preserved.”

When crafting the ordinance, Osborne and city staff met with Union City officials to understand how their measure worked and to determine best practices.

For any street where a full repaving is not required, the contractor must adhere to a new and improved engineering standard, utilizing infrared technology, when patching the road. The measure also requires contractors file a \$25,000 security bond with the City, ensure engineering oversight of the backfilling process, and fully restore cobblestone streets and pedestrian crossings.

The only exemption would be if the person requesting to open the road is an individual property owner with less than 10 units. ///