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Mayor Fulop to Promote Police Sergeants and Lieutenants as Part of Continued Efforts to Improve Public Safety, Fulfill New Table of Organization, and Diversify Department; Promotions include the First African-American Lieutenant in More than a Decade and First Pakistani Muslim in the Rank of Sergeant

Jersey City is First City in New Jersey to Promote Minority Sergeants from U.S. Department of Justice Consent Decree; Marine Corps Style Diversity Recruitment Office Opened in the HUB to Aggressively Attract Residents from All Communities

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop, Public Safety Director James Shea, and Police Chief Philip Zacche** announced today the promotion of seven sergeants and seven lieutenants as the fulfillment of the newly established table of organization - the department’s first in more than decades - and as the administration continues to improve public safety and diversify the Police Department in both rank and leadership.

The promotions include the **first African-American lieutenant in more than a decade** - the highest-ranking African American in the department - as well as the Department’s **first Pakistani Muslim Sergeant**.

“Jersey City is the most diverse city in the nation and it is our goal is to have a police department that reflects the community it serves, both in rank and file,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We are being aggressive in our approach to recruit young men and women from every community in Jersey City, and we also recognize the importance of diversity at every level of the department.”

The latest class of police officers hired by Mayor Fulop, currently in the police academy, reflects the administration’s commitment to diversifying the department. That class of 41 includes 32 minorities: five Asian males, seven African-American males, two African-American females, 13 Latinos, and five Latinas.

“We are pleased that Mayor Fulop has made making the police department more diverse a priority and are grateful for this change,” said **Pastor John H. McReynolds of Mt. Olive Baptist Church**. “When police officers are from the community and reflect the community they serve, relations are strengthened and police work is greatly improved. We will continue to work with Mayor Fulop to continue this progress.”

(more)

In October, Mayor Fulop made Jersey City the first city in the state to promote minority officers to the rank of sergeant following a U.S. Department of Justice Consent decree. Six African-American officers and three Latino officers were promoted to sergeant.

Then, in December, Mayor Fulop promoted 25 officers to the rank of detective, including eight Latinos, four African-Americans and two Filipino-American officers, as well as the department's first Egyptian Muslim detective.

“Today’s promotions are part of our ongoing commitment to expand diversity in our police force,” said **Public Safety Director Shea**. “All of our promotions recognize excellence in the department and we are fortunate to have so many hard working candidates representing different communities across Jersey City.”

Mayor Fulop has hired 132 new police officers part of the administration's focus on enhancing public safety and growing the department. That has also included building a police department that reflects the entire Jersey City community - the most diverse city in the nation. Among two of the new classes sworn in by Mayor Fulop, ten languages are spoken including English, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Arabic, Urdu, Polish, Swahili, Bengali and Vietnamese.

“Today is truly a proud and historic day for the Pakistani American community, as we welcome the first Pakistani Muslim sergeant to the Jersey City Police Department,” said **Dr. Rafiq Chaudhry**. “Jersey City’s diversity is found throughout the city and when officers understand the culture, speak the language and know the people they serve, it makes a positive impact. We should continue to encourage our youth to be involved in public service and civics as this will greatly improve our communities.”

Shortly after taking office in July 2013, Mayor Fulop held a police diversity recruitment seminar at City Hall that drew hundreds of residents. Mayor Fulop expanded the **Police Diversity Recruitment** initiative in October, using a Marine Corps model that operates in the community to work with interested applicants throughout the process, encouraging them and providing necessary resources such as academic and physical training.

The new recruitment office, which now has two full-time officers assigned, is strategically located at the HUB on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. The two dedicated officers are conducting outreach to churches, community groups, high schools and other organizations, as well as receiving dozens of walk-ins weekly. The recruitment officers have generated letters of interest from 37 African American males, 34 African American females, 11 Latinos, 19 Latinas, and eight residents representing other races or ethnic groups.

The recruitment officers will continue to communicate with interested residents throughout the process, will provide police test prep courses, GED assistance if needed, physical training and other resources to ensure candidates not only stay interested, but receive the best training so they can succeed on the next police test.

“We know Jersey City has hundreds of talented young men and women who would be perfect candidates to become police officers,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Our aim now is reaching them, educating them on the benefits of serving their community and letting them know we are here to help them in that process. It is then we will have a department that is representative of our city.”

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