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***Mayor Fulop & Recreation Department Announce Expanded Lacrosse Program; Program is part of Mayor Fulop's Growing and Diversified Recreational Offerings***

***Now in its Second Season, Lacrosse Program is Open to Boys & Girls in Kindergarten Through Eighth Grade***

**JERSEY CITY** – As part of **Mayor Steven M. Fulop's** increased recreational programming, the Mayor and Recreation Department, along with non-profit **Jersey City Lacrosse**, announced today the expansion of the city's **lacrosse program**, which is open to boys and girls in kindergarten through eighth grade.

In its second year, the program has added more games, a regional tournament, and more travel team opportunities. Last year, the program attracted more than 100 children to participate in the sport. This year, the program has a goal to field three boys' teams and a girls' team, playing teams from Hoboken to Brooklyn and participating in several tournaments.

"Lacrosse is a sport that traditionally has not been offered in urban recreation programs, so we were excited to partner with Jersey City Lacrosse to bring this program to Jersey City so we can expose our children to a variety of sports," said **Mayor Fulop**. "Providing access to athletics can open the door to all kinds of opportunities including increased educational choices at the college level."

Jersey City Lacrosse, which is in its fifth year of running the youth lacrosse program in Jersey City, is an all-volunteer 501c3 organization and all coaches are members of and trained by US Lacrosse, the entity that oversees U.S. high school and college level lacrosse programs.

The sport of lacrosse combines the teamwork of basketball, the speed of hockey and the strategy of soccer, and is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Many universities across the country offer scholarships for lacrosse and more schools are adding it, increasing demand for athletes from men's and women's high school programs.

"One of our goals is to put in place a lacrosse program for boys and girls at the high school level so our kids can enhance their college choices," said **Eric Fleming, president of Jersey City Lacrosse**.

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Registration for the program opened earlier this month and remains ongoing. The Department of Recreation and Jersey City Lacrosse held two months of introductory clinics across the city ahead of a full season. Practice begins this Sunday, March 15, 2015 at Ferris high school from 4 to 6 pm, and Monday practices will be held at Caven Point from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Games are played on Saturdays, with the first boy's scrimmage set for March 28 at home.

And all new for this year, Jersey City will be hosting the first annual Jersey City Chilltown Classic – a boys tournament set for May 30. The tournament, to be held at Caven Point, will be one of a kind, being as much a competition as a festival, with music, vendors and the best food trucks that Jersey City can offer.

Registration is now open at [www.jerseycitylacrosse.com](http://www.jerseycitylacrosse.com). For more information, please contact Brad Keating, [jerseycitylax@gmail.com](mailto:jerseycitylax@gmail.com).

### **About Jersey City Department of Recreation**

The Jersey City Recreation Department provides programming for Jersey City children, adults and seniors at sites throughout the City. Under the Fulop Administration, the Department has added 22 new programs, including scuba, boxing, cricket, fitness programs, and programs for special needs athletes. The Department has increased offerings through afterschool programs, partnerships with professional sports organizations and local non-profits, as well as establishing several competitive games, tournaments and travel teams.

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