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Mayor Fulop and Councilman Rivera Announce First Annual Jersey City Hispanic Entrepreneur and Small Business Conference as the Fulop Administration Continues its Efforts to Grow and Support the Jersey City Small Business Community

Symposium to Feature Speakers from State, the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, Local Government, Banks and Non-Profits

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and Councilman-At-Large Daniel Rivera announced today the City will host the first **Annual Hispanic Entrepreneur and Small Business Conference** on Wednesday as the Fulop Administration continues its efforts to grow and support the Jersey City small business community.

The conference, which will be held from **8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers**, will feature speakers from key agencies and organizations including the **New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development**, the **Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey** and the **Hudson County Chamber of Commerce**. Additionally, city agencies, local banks, and business support programs will be on hand to provide assistance and resources.

“As the leader for job growth in New Jersey, we want businesses to know more about what Jersey City has to offer and how they can benefit from being here and partnering with us on job creation,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We look forward to having more businesses helping expand the Jersey City brand all over the state and the nation as we continue to grow.”

Since taking office, the Fulop administration has made bolstering services to the small business a community a focus, specifically streamlining the permitting process and utilizing tablets in the field at the Building Department to expedite approvals. The Building Department has also expanded weekday hours and added weekend hours. As a result, more than 150 small businesses have opened - including 50 restaurants - creating thousands of jobs for local residents. Last month, the Fulop Administration also introduced an ordinance limiting the number of chain retail stores and restaurants in downtown Jersey City to further support the small business community and diversity of the city.

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“Jersey City has one of the largest Latino communities in the state and is an essential part of who we are,” said **At-Large Councilman Daniel Rivera**. “Small businesses are the engine for economic growth and this conference serves as a medium to provide our local entrepreneurs information about the tools available to help them start-up, grow and hire more workers.”

Jersey City’s Hispanic business community represents 15 percent of the total commercial population, with businesses across the health care, retail, trade, restaurant, and finance industries. Last month, Goya Foods cut the ribbon on their global headquarters in Jersey City, where they have already hired 100 new Jersey City residents and are committed to adding even more jobs to the local economy.

The Jersey City symposium aims to provide networking opportunities for business owners, resources from government and private agencies, and create a forum for the exchange of ideas in which additional businesses can grow and flourish.

“The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development is excited to have the opportunity to discuss the multiple programs and incentives available to small businesses throughout the state,” said **Chris Murphy, Manager, Statewide Strategic Initiatives at the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development**. “We are thankful for the opportunity to be part of this exciting event and look forward to speaking to the business owners in attendance.”

In addition to the New Jersey Department of Labor, the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is participating in the event, to help promote opportunities for its members and grow the Hispanic business community.

“The Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey has organized two major events in Jersey City over the past two years with the support of Mayor Fulop and his administration,” said **Carlos Medina, Esq. President of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey**. “It is no surprise that the City is hosting this Hispanic small business summit as they have always known the value that this business community brings to the city.”

Maria Nieves, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, said the event is one that will highlight what Jersey City has to offer the growing Hispanic business community.

“The Chamber membership is made up of many Hispanic small business owners and we know that this is a community with a strong entrepreneurial drive,” said **Ms. Nieves**. “It is great to see the City and Mayor Fulop reach out to this community with the resources and tools that can help them grow further and provide new opportunities for those looking to start a small business in Jersey City.”

Other participants include New Jersey Community Capital, Banco Popular, Rising Tide Capital, Score (small business loan provider), CD Financial, and staff from a variety of city offices, including the Building Department, Zoning, Commerce, and Economic Development, with business owners being able to gain access to information on permits, expansion opportunities, and other business related services.

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