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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 27, 2015

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***Mayor Fulop and the Department of Recreation Announce Summer Basketball Leagues at Jersey City Parks***

***Summer Parks Lineup Also Includes Volleyball and Badminton Leagues as Fulop Administration Continues to Grow Recreation Department***

**JERSEY CITY** –Mayor **Steven M. Fulop** and the **Department of Recreation** are proud to announce that summer basketball is back as the outdoor **Recreation Basketball Leagues** kick off in Jersey City for residents ages nine to adult as the administration continues to grow the city’s Recreation Department.

There will be seven summer basketball leagues offered in parks throughout the city for children, teens, and adults, five more than before the Fulop administration took office. Last year, more than 1,000 residents participated in the leagues, and the Recreation Department is hoping to grow that number this year.

The leagues will run from **June 8<sup>th</sup> through August 21** and in addition to basketball, the City is also offering a summer girl’s high school volleyball league at PS #28, and an adult Badminton league at Pershing Field Ice Rink.

“Jersey City has a rich basketball history and the many outdoor basketball leagues we are offering are a continuation of that history as our Recreation Department expands programming throughout the city,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “During the summer, we want to provide children and adults positive activities right in their communities that keep them active and that engage them with neighbors and friends.”

The summer outdoor basketball leagues are a continuation of the winter indoor ‘**Beat the Street’ League**, youth clinics, and tournaments.

“Basketball is a great tool to keep children and young adults positively active in Jersey City throughout the year, but especially during the summer months,” said **Alex Mirabel, head basketball coach at St. Peter’s Prep and a volunteer coach for the Recreation summer league**. “With the increase from two Recreation summer leagues in 2012 to now a total of nine summer leagues, the Fulop Administration has demonstrated a commitment to providing activities for all residents.”

Since July 2013, the City of Jersey City has launched eight new summer sport leagues for both boys and girls, as well as high school students and adults. Mayor Fulop and the Department of Recreation will continue to provide various competitive athletic leagues, including; flag football, soccer, lacrosse, and tackle football. These programs, like the many others, are a reflection of the Fulop administration’s goal to create a diverse offering of inspiring activities for all residents.

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Since Mayor Fulop has taken office, the **Recreation Department has added 22 new programs**, including scuba, boxing, cricket, fitness programs, and programs for special needs athletes. The Department has also 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.

**The Recreation Summer Basketball Leagues are as follows:**

Hamilton Park Boy's Summer High School Basketball League

The premier outdoor high school league in New Jersey  
Dates: June 8 – Aug. 6, Monday through Friday  
Time: 4pm – 10p

Bayside Park Men's/Women Summer Basketball League

Dates: June 29 – Aug. 21  
**Men** Monday through Friday  
**Women** Wednesdays  
Time: 6pm – 9pm  
Ages: 18 & Over

Audubon Park Boys High School Summer Basketball League

Dates: July 6 – Aug. 7, Monday through Friday  
Times: 5pm – 9pm  
Ages: 14 - 18

Pershing Field Summer Basketball League

Dates: July 6 – Aug. 2 Monday through Friday  
Times: 5pm – 9pm  
Age: 11 – 14 on court 1  
Age: 15 – 18 on court 2

Westside/Pavonia High School and Grammar Summer Basketball League

Dates: July 6 – Aug. 7 Monday through Friday  
Times: 5pm – 9pm  
Age: 11 – 14 on court #1  
Age: 15 – 18 on court #2

Muhammad Ali Grammar Summer Basketball League

Dates: July 6 – Aug. 7 Monday through Friday  
Times: 5pm – 9pm  
Age: 9 - 11 on court #1  
Age: 12 - 14 on court #2

Teams and individuals can sign up to compete in any of the leagues. **Signups are held at the parks Monday thru Friday 5pm to 8pm or call 201-547-4537. For more information and to register please contact the Recreation Department at 201-547-5003 or visit [www.jerseycitynj.gov](http://www.jerseycitynj.gov).**

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