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Mayor Fulop Swears in 32 New Police Officers, Bringing the Size of the Department to 816 as Administration Continues to Grow the Force and Enhance Public Safety

122 Officers Hired Since Mayor Fulop Took Office As Administration Focuses on Increasing Size and Diversity of Department

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop today swore in **32 new Jersey City Police Officers**, bringing the size of the department to **816 officers** as the administration continues to grow and diversify the force, while enhancing public safety.

Since taking office in July of 2013, Mayor Fulop has hired 122 new police officers, including today’s class and another 17 officers are currently in the police academy graduating in October. Today’s class reflects both Mayor Fulop’s commitment to expanding the size of the department and to increasing its diversity to reflect the city: **Officers sworn in today include 26 minorities: three Asian males, six African-American males, one African-American female, 12 Latinos and four Latinas.**

“Not only have we hired more officers, but we have also reassigned officers from desk positions to street patrol to best utilize our resources and personnel,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “While we are making progress, we recognize that more needs to be done. That is why we will continue to hire officers, with an additional 40 police officers expected to enter the police academy later this fall and another class in early 2016.”

When Mayor Fulop took office, there were 779 officers in the department and using grant and capital funds, the administration has committed to expanding the department. The safest big city in New Jersey, crime statistics for Jersey City have significantly declined since Mayor Fulop took office, and the administration is continuing to implement strategies to reduce crime even further.

Under Mayor Fulop, a new table of organization for the Police Department was also created – the first such organizational structure of its kind in 20 years. The new table of organization assigns new officers to street level units, increases training for new officers, establishes a better chain of command and structure for the department, as well as increased accountability.

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“As pastor of one of the largest and most active Baptist churches in Jersey City, I’m so proud of what our mayor is doing by hiring more police,” said **Rev. John H. McReynolds, pastor of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church on Arlington Avenue**. “I’m going to work with the mayor, the chief of police and the mothers and fathers of young people in this city and do whatever I can to continue to make Jersey City safer.”

All the police officers who joined the force today will be assigned directly to street patrol. In addition, the officers will rotate through all four precincts in the city for three-month assignments to gain an understanding of the unique issues facing each community.

“The rotation assignments was a significant training change implemented by Police Chief Philip Zacche to better prepare our officers,” said **Public Safety Director James Shea**. “This way, the new recruits will learn about all of Jersey City and get exposed to all four precincts. It educates them to each community, so they become more well-rounded officers.”

The new officers represent an array of diverse ethnic backgrounds, including Filipino, Guyanese, Haitian, Cuban, Polish, Italian, African and Guatemalan cultures. With the swearing in of today’s new class, languages spoken within the JCPD include English, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Arabic, Urdu, Creole, Polish, Swahili, Bengali and Vietnamese.

Since taking office, Mayor Fulop has promoted the department’s first Pakistani Muslim sergeant, the department’s first Egyptian Muslim detective *and* promoted the first African-American to lieutenant in more than a decade.

"We're actively working to recruit more African-American police officers, and police officers of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds," said **Police Chief Philip Zacche**. "We want our new officers to reflect the community they serve. We believe that a more diverse police force is a better police force."

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.

“Having a more diverse police force builds relationships within different communities and having police officers from other backgrounds and religions gives police a better understanding of other cultures,” said **Ahmed Shedeed, President of the Jersey City Islamic Center**. “Making the department more diverse is something we’ve been advocates of for a long time and are glad to see Mayor Fulop has made this a priority.”

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