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Mayor Fulop & Public Safety Officials to Swear in 14 New Firefighters; New Class is Fourth Hired By Mayor Fulop as Administration Continues to Invest in Public Safety

81 Firefighters Hired by Mayor Fulop, Bringing Department to a Total of 581 Members With More Companies on Duty than in Previous Years

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop, Public Safety Director James Shea, and Fire Chief Darren Rivers**, today swore in **14 new firefighters** during a ceremony at City Hall as the Fulop Administration continues to make significant investments in public safety. The new class of firefighters is the fourth sworn in since Mayor Fulop took office, having **hired 81 new firefighters** to bring the department to a total of 581 members.

The hiring of up to 49 of the new firefighters by Mayor Fulop was made possible by funds from a \$6.9 million federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. Between the new hires under the SAFER grant and internal staffing policy changes since 2013, the City has had more fire companies on duty in the last two years than in the prior eight years.

“As our city continues to grow, it is important to invest in our public safety department to ensure our residents and businesses receive the highest level of service,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We welcome this new class of firefighters, whose commitment to the community they serve is greatly appreciated and we thank our federal representatives for ensuring Jersey City receives this important public safety funding.”

The Fulop Administration has also **made advancements in diversity recruitment**, hiring the department’s first African-American female and the first two Hispanic female firefighters. The new class sworn in today includes two African-American firefighters, one Hispanic firefighter and one Asian firefighter. Of the 81 new firefighters hired, nine have been African American, 16 Hispanic and three Asian.

During the summer, as part of the administration’s efforts to have both the fire department and the police department better mirror the community, firefighters spent two days a week for two months conducting outreach, distributing flyers about the exam along MLK Drive at the HUB, and educating residents about the benefits of serving their community as a firefighter. Recruitment posters were also placed in local businesses, places of worship and community organizations announcing the recent state firefighter exam.

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As a result, more than 2,000 applicants representing a diverse group of Jersey City residents from throughout the city applied for the test. In addition to actively recruiting in the community, the City also offered free test prep courses for the state exam with hundreds of Jersey City residents participating.

“Just as we are aggressively diversifying our police department, so too are we working to bring diversity to the Fire Department,” said **Director Shea**. “We understand the value of having our public safety personnel reflect the community they serve, which is why we made a strong push to promote the recent exam and prepare our Jersey City applicants to succeed.”

The new firefighters – who are the 63rd class in the Fire Department’s 144-year history – completed ten weeks of training at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, followed by two weeks of training in Jersey City.

“We congratulate all of the new firefighters sworn in today on this accomplishment as they are joining the greatest fire department in the state,” said **Fire Chief Darren Rivers**. “They have not only chosen a rewarding career, but now have an entire new family who will support them throughout the journey.”

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