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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 18, 2017

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Jersey City Trains Local Chaplains to Assist Residents During Times of Loss, Violence; Clergy will Provide Support & Comfort as well as access to Social Services

Chaplain Program Supported by a \$10,000 Grant from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** announced today a new program to use local clergy members to assist residents who experience violence and other difficult situations. The program is supported by a \$10,000 grant from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

“Other cities nationally and in New Jersey are successfully using chaplains to provide timely and compassionate response,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We care when our residents are hurting, and the Chaplains provide support to help people at a time of crisis or loss. These are people in the community who they know and trust, and who could provide assistance at a time when they need it most.”

The Chaplains will be called by the Jersey City Police Department when there is a death or other critical incident. In addition to providing comfort and support, the chaplains will serve as a liaison to social services and other resources that an individual or family may need during a time of loss or violence.

The Chaplain program is a joint initiative of the Mayor's Office, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Health & Human Services. Chaplains are recruited from a variety of faith traditions, and do not function religiously unless a resident asks for that kind of support. The Jersey City Chaplain program uses ministers who are rooted in Jersey City, and are trained for this kind of community care.

“Using Chaplains allows police officers to more quickly return to law enforcement duties, while still meeting real resident needs,” said **Public Safety Director James Shea**. “This program evolved from meeting with families who have experienced violence and looking for solutions together.”

“We know that in times of crisis, everybody can use extra support,” said **Health & Human Services Director Stacey Flanagan**. “This helps people make good use of their own resources, recover more quickly, and has positive immediate and long-term health effects.”

The program will be introduced to the public at a series of public meetings in every police district and ward. The Jersey City Police Department will also present other community policing initiatives. Light refreshments will be served.

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Tuesday 9/19	7pm	Fountain of Salvation, 324 Communipaw Ave. @ Pine St.
Wednesday 9/20	7pm	North District Captain's Meeting, MS 7, 222 Laidlaw Ave.
Thursday 9/21	7pm	Cityline Church, 1510 Kennedy Blvd. @ Pamrapo Ave.
Monday 9/25	7pm	St. Aloysius Catholic Church Annex, 721 West Side Ave @ Jewett
Tuesday 9/26	7pm	New Hope Baptist Church, 472-76 Bergen Ave
Wednesday 9/27	7pm	East District Captain's Meeting, PS 4, Bright & Varick Sts., Library
Thursday 9/28	7pm	Claremont Lafayette Presbyterian Church, Claremont & Rose Aves
Wednesday 10/11	7:30pm	St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 440 Hoboken Ave (5 Corners)
Wednesday 10/18	7pm	St. Mary's Catholic Church, 219 3rd St
Thursday 10/19	7pm	Hope Center, 110 Cambridge Ave

Similar presentations will be made at South and West District Captain's meetings, dates to be determined.

The Grant Program, through the Office of the Attorney General, is offered in honor of Detective Matthew L. Tarentino of the Summit Police Department. Detective Tarentino was a loved and respected member of his community and a role model for all. He was passionate about the Summit Police Department's robust community outreach programs, particularly its D.A.R.E. program. As a testament to his immeasurable efforts and dedication, the Summit Police Department was a 2017 recipient of the Attorney General's Outstanding Community Policing Award. To commemorate Detective Tarentino's badge number, #121, the Attorney General is making \$219,122 in State forfeiture funds available to support this grant program.

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