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***Jersey City Continues Groundbreaking LGBT Training for New JCPD Officers with Training for Next Class of Graduates***

*Program began in May 2015 Through Partnership with GOALny and NYPD; All New Officers Receive LGBT Sensitivity Training With Plans to Expand to All Officers*

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** and the **Jersey City Police Department** announced today that as part of the department’s ongoing effort to expand and diversify the department, all new officers will undergo LGBT training through a partnership with the NYPD and GOALny, the Gay Officers Action League of New York.

On June 16th, the newest graduates of the police academy will receive a comprehensive training in LGBT sensitivity as part of their departmental training. The partnership with GOALny was launched in May of 2015. Since then, every officer graduating from the academy has gone through the training. After the training on the 16th, 90 newly sworn officers will have received the sensitivity training, with the Police Department planning to expand to cover all officers in the department.

“Too often LGBT residents in major cities are afraid to come forward when hate crimes are committed against them because of the fear that local police departments won’t give their case the attention it deserves,” said **Mayor Steven Fulop**. “We have one of the largest LGBT communities in the state and as we continue to expand and diversify the police department, we want to ensure that our officers know the issues and sensitivities of each community. We also want our LGBT neighbors understand that the JCPD is there to serve and protect them as vital and valued members of our community.”

The training is carried out by NYPD officers with GOALny, an affiliation of uniformed and civilian LGBT members of the law enforcement community in New York City. The training is designed to convey an increased awareness of the challenges faced by the LGBT community, highlight and counteract inherent biases in the way that community is treated by law enforcement and other institutions, and teach appropriate terminology.

GOAL’s LGBTQ Workshop is an interactive presentation, which allows participants to examine their belief systems in regards to gay, lesbian and transgender peoples. Topics covered included: internalized homophobia, coming out, institutionalized homophobia, gender identity, gender expression and policing with unconscious bias.

**(more)**

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“As any police officer knows, positive community relations is the key to successful policing, and with such a large LGBT population in the city, we want to make sure that they know we are here for them as we are all of our residents,” said **Public Safety Director James Shea**. “I want to thank NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton for partnering with us and providing these officers to conduct the training. This sensitivity training is just another part of our overall mission to ensure a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming police force.”

“As the LGBT liaison for the Police Department, it has been refreshing to have an administration and police leadership who have made this training a priority,” said **Detective Philip Raleigh**. “The feedback from the community has been positive, as they understand how valuable this training is to increasing awareness about the issues faced by the LGBT community and to growing a partnership with law enforcement.”

Jersey City has one of the largest LGBT populations in the state of New Jersey. In recent years, the City has taken a number of steps to make Jersey City friendlier to LGBT residents, including establishing an LGBT Task Force within the Mayor’s Office and hosting the first legal wedding ceremony at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 21, 2013. And last year, Jersey City became the first city in the state of New Jersey to expand healthcare coverage for transgender municipal employees.

In fact, Jersey City has received a perfect score from the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index every year since Mayor Fulop took office. The MEI measures and ranks cities across the nation on the inclusivity of local laws, policies, and practices with respect to the LGBT community.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at [jenniferm@jcnj.org](mailto:jenniferm@jcnj.org) or 201-376-0699. ///**