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Fulop Administration Breaks Ground on Highly Anticipated City Hall Annex at the HUB; \$20 Million Project is Largest Investment in Ward F’s History

Nearly 300 City Employees to Move to HUB Annex, Leading to New Development and Commercial Opportunities at the HUB and Nearby Locations; Move Will Save Taxpayers Millions of Dollars

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** was joined today by members of the City Council, the local community and federal officials at a ground breaking ceremony for the highly-anticipated **City Hall Annex** project, a brand-new facility with 45,000 square feet of city office space at the HUB Market on Martin Luther King Drive. At \$20 million, the state-of-the-art annex represents the largest single investment in Ward F’s history, and is expected to catalyze further economic development in the area.

“It is impossible to overstate the transformative potential of this project for Bergen-Lafayette, Ward F, and the city as a whole,” said **Mayor Steven Fulop**. “We made a promise to bring investment to areas of the city that have historically been overlooked and neglected. This Annex is part of our commitment to keeping that promise as we put substantial City resources to work here.”

The City Hall Annex is a centerpiece of the Administration’s commitment to putting city resources to work revitalizing Ward F. Nearly 300 city employees will move to the new location when it opens in February 2018, including the Department of Housing, Economic Development and Commerce; the Department of Health and Human Services; a Resident Response Center field office; and other city staff.

The project will also save the city significantly, as offices will be relocated from more costly rental space. Over the life of the building, the project is expected to save taxpayers tens of millions of dollars as the city saves on expensive lease payments.

“I’m so excited to see work begin on this facility. The foot traffic and business opportunities that will result from the nearly 300 city workers at the fully staffed City Hall Annex will help drive further development as we continue working to revitalize this neighborhood,” said **Ward F Councilwoman Diane Coleman**. “The potential for this community is tremendous, and the Annex will help realize that.”

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In addition to the \$20 million Annex, the Fulop administration has worked hard to bring public and private investment dollars to Ward F in an effort to encourage redevelopment. Late last year, the Fulop administration brought a new retail bank, Investors Bank, to the HUB after more than five years of no bank at the shopping center in the heart of Ward F. And earlier this summer, the Fulop administration cut the ribbon on Berry Lane Park, a nearly \$40 million, 17.5 acre park, the largest municipal park in the City.

And, later today, the Fulop administration will present the Jackson Hill Redevelopment Plan to the Planning Board for review. The new Redevelopment Plan, developed with comprehensive community input, lays out a roadmap for attracting residential and commercial development along the 2.4-mile long commercial corridor connecting McGinley Square to Greenville, including Monticello Avenue and MLK Drive.

“The Jackson Hill Main Street Management Corporation looks forward to the potential of the Municipal Annex as it relates to business recruitment and sustainability opportunities for the district. The increase of foot traffic and visitors to the annex will aid in drawing more small businesses to the area, thereby creating employment opportunities, help ignite economic growth and ultimately private investment sparking rebirth of small businesses in our community” stated Tyrone Rose, President of the SID.

The Annex, which will be financed through a lease-to-own agreement with Brandywine over 25 years, will be built by Brandywine at no cost to the city. The City will make monthly lease payments less than current leases and will ultimately own the facility.

“We are excited and have a strong commitment to the revitalization of the HUB and its surrounding area. We appreciate all of the hard work on the part of Mayor Fulop, City Council, JCRA and their respective staffs,” said **Eric Moore, President of HUB Partners**, Brandywine’s affiliate that manages the HUB development. “We look forward to continuing to help make the Mayor’s vision for the HUB become a reality.”

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