

For Immediate Release: August 8, 2016

Contact Information: Rolando Lavarro | lavarro2009@gmail.com | 201.844.8946

Statement of Jersey City Council President Lavarro on Trump's Most Recent Call for Immigration Ban

First, Donald Trump lied that there were thousands of Muslims dancing on rooftops in Jersey City on 9/11. He promises to build a wall to keep out Mexicans whom he referred to as criminals, drug dealers, and rapists. He wants to stop refugees yearning to breathe free from coming to our teeming shores. He tramples on the grave of Army Capt. Humayun Khan and insults the hero's family when he calls for a ban on all Muslims. Now, he suggests we should ban immigration from the Philippines. There is simply no end to Trump's inanities.

As the son of Filipino immigrants, and on behalf of my elders, my *manongs* and *manangs*, I am appalled by the outrageous comments of this racist bully. He disregards the countless contributions that Filipino Americans have made to the United States of America, particularly Filipino World War II veterans who fought and died bravely to preserve our freedom and American way of life. He ignores the families and loved ones of those veterans who are applying for citizenship via the current parole program. Once again, Trump puts an exclamation point on his ignorance as he disregards over a century of relations between the U.S. and the Philippines, a country that has been and continues to be one of our nation's closest allies in that region.

Trump's temperament and bigotry is not befitting of a President. These latest comments are an insult to the nearly 18,000 Filipino Americans residing in Jersey City, 127,000 in New Jersey and over 3.4 million across the country¹. All good people should be outraged by Trump's hateful and divisive rhetoric.

We should channel our outrage positively and reject Trump's prejudiced and erratic way of governing when we vote for the next leader of the greatest nation in the world. On Tuesday, November 8, elect Hillary Clinton, a leader with a world view that appreciates diversity and knows we are stronger when we're together.

- Rolando Lavarro, Council President, City of Jersey City

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, Table PCT7 (ASIAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER RACES).