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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Oct. 18th, 2016

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## ***Jersey City Receives Perfect Score in Human Rights Campaign's LGBT Equality Index for Fourth Consecutive Year***

*Perfect Score Demonstrates Jersey City's Continued Leadership At Forefront of LGBT Equality in New Jersey and Nationwide*

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** today announced that Jersey City has once again, for the fourth consecutive year, received a perfect score on the **Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index**, which measures a city's commitment to LGBT equality. Jersey City has received a perfect score every year since Mayor Fulop took office.

“What makes Jersey City so special is that it is a diverse, inclusive place, where all residents are welcome in our community – regardless of one's sexual identity or orientation,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “One of the top priorities of my administration has and will continue to be preserving that sense of inclusion.”

This year, Jersey City was one of only 60 cities nationwide to receive a perfect score in the annual Municipal Equality Index report.

Jersey City received a perfect score on the MEI index for the first time in 2013, the year Mayor Fulop took office, marking a major increase from the previous year's score of 83. That made Jersey City the only city in the State of New Jersey to receive a perfect score, and one of only 25 nationwide. The City received a perfect score again in 2014. Also in 2014, the financial website Nerdwallet named Jersey City the 8th most LGBT-friendly city in the United States.

In May 2015, the Fulop administration partnered with the NYPD and GOALny to implement extensive and comprehensive LGBT sensitivity training for all new police officers. And in September 2015, in another statewide first, Mayor Steven Fulop announced that Jersey City would be expanding the health care it offers city employees to include coverage for transgender medical care and related procedures, such as gender affirmation surgery. Jersey City received another perfect score in 2015 as a result.

Jersey City, which has one of the largest LGBT populations in the State, was also the site of the state's first same-sex marriage. In a midnight ceremony at City Hall on October 21st, 2013, Mayor Fulop officiated at the first such wedding ceremony in New Jersey history, at which eight couples became the first in the state to be legally married.

**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. ///**