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Jersey City Housing Authority to Open Section 8 Housing Voucher Program to New Applicants for First Time in 15 years
For First Time in City History, Application Process will be an Online Lottery

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** and the **Jersey City Housing Authority** are announcing the opening of the application process for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and Project Based Assistance Program, which will begin the third week in May. This is the first time the federally-funded voucher program has been open for new applicants in 15 years, and the first time in the city’s history that the application process will be conducted through an online lottery.

“This is yet another way in which we are working to make affordable housing accessible to our residents,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “The Section 8 Voucher Program is one that many residents want to be a part of and now that the process is opening and modernizing with an online lottery, we are hopeful to see more people benefit and find quality, affordable housing throughout the city.”

The Housing Authority last opened the Section 8 Waiting List in 2002, and received over 12,000 applications for the federally-funded program. It took 15 years for the JCHA to exhaust that list. Applications for the new Section 8 housing list will be accepted online at www.jchawaitinglistapp.com from **May 15, 2017 to May 19, 2017**.

Successfully submitted applications will be enter into a computerized selection process and a third-party vendor will then perform the lottery selection. Applicants will be notified of their status within four to eight weeks after the application period is closed. No paper applications will be accepted, and only one application per person is allowed.

Applicants in need of assistance in completing the electronic applications and computer access can visit any local library (put link to JC library website). Anyone with special needs can call (201) 706-4699 for application assistance.

As Jersey City grows, with nearly 10,000 units currently under construction and another 16,000 approved, the Fulop administration has made creating more affordable housing a priority and Jersey City now leads the state in the number of new affordable units. Shortly after taking office, the Fulop administration created the city’s first-ever Affordable Housing Trust Fund policy to establish criteria for and incentivize the development of affordable housing. And last year, Jersey City completed its first-ever housing assessment with Columbia University and NYU and subsequently used that data to craft the first-ever affordable housing plan in Jersey City’s history.

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Together, these strategies have proven remarkably successful, as in the last three years alone, the Fulop administration has invested more than \$6 million of Affordable Housing Trust Fund dollars and nearly matched the 1,255 affordable units created or preserved during the entire eight years of the previous administration. And construction is underway on two separate 80/20 mixed-income projects in downtown – the first in three decades – which will bring 165 units of affordable housing to the city’s waterfront district.

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