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***Mayor Fulop Announces 30 New Police Recruits to Enter Police Academy December 1<sup>st</sup>; Department to Reach Over 900 Officers for the First Time in Over Two Decades***

**JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop** today announced the **hire of 30 new police recruits** who will enter the police academy tomorrow, December 1st, bringing the **size of the department to 922 officers** – the first time in over two decades the police force has reached over 900 officers.

“When we took office there was an historic low in manpower and during the past three years we have been dedicated to rebuilding our police department,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “This is a huge accomplishment as for the first time in 20 years we will have over 900 officers on the force, something we pledged to do.”

When Mayor Fulop took office, there were 779 officers in the department and utilizing grant and capital funds, the administration has hired eight new classes of officers with plans for continued expansion. The newest class of recruits, once they graduate, will bring the department to 922 officers, and follows a class of 26 recruits who entered the academy in September and are scheduled to graduate in March of 2017.

“With each new class coming out of the academy, we are seeing successes in building a safer city with added foot patrols and increased community policing, but know there is more work to do which is why we will continue to strengthen our department in both personnel and resources,” added **Mayor Fulop**.

New officers joining the force have been assigned to foot patrols, primarily in the South and West Districts to increase visibility and expand community-policing efforts.

While growing the police department, the Fulop administration has also made diversifying the force a priority. Of the new officers who have been hired since 2013, more than 70 percent have been minorities, as the city aims to ensure that the department accurately reflects the diversity of Jersey City.

The new class entering the academy on December 1st includes 14 Hispanic recruits, five Asian-American recruits and four African-American recruits. This new class also includes recruits who speak Spanish, Creole, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, and Urdu.

**(more)**

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Mayor Fulop also promoted the department's first Pakistani Muslim Sergeant, the department's first Egyptian Muslim detective *and* promoted the first African-American to lieutenant in more than a decade. In 2014, the Fulop administration made Jersey City the first city in the state of New Jersey to promote Hispanic and African-American sergeants from a consent decree issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, taking the lead on diversifying the rank within the department. These efforts at diversifying the Jersey City Police Department to reflect the community have been highlighted nationally.

**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.**