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Mayor Fulop, Jersey City Employment & Training and the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey Partner on Affordable Housing Conference; “A Housing Vision for Our Community” is the first Affordable Housing Conference in Hudson County

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop announced today that the City of Jersey City is partnering with the Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP) and the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey to host the City’s **first ever Affordable Housing Conference, “A Housing Vision for Our Community,”** from **8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014, at New Jersey City University, 2039 John F. Kennedy Blvd.**

“Our administration has developed the first real policy that creates affordable housing opportunities throughout the city,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “As we continue to develop the city, we will ensure that residents have access to quality affordable housing as this is instrumental in creating a strong, productive community.”

The conference will seek to address the affordable housing issue facing Jersey City as well as so many municipalities across the country – particularly in light of rising real estate prices and declining federal funds to support subsidized housing programs.

Last year, the Fulop administration implemented **Jersey City’s first Affordable Housing Trust Fund policy** that establishes a criteria for and **incentivizes the development of affordable housing throughout Jersey City**, particularly in areas where affordable housing has been under developed.

The affordable housing policy also creates an independent project application checklist and review committee for the distribution of funds, thereby ensuring a transparent process.

“Housing is a cornerstone of productive living,” said **JCETP Director, Jim McGreevey**, “Mayor Fulop is committed to providing accessible housing for the entire community. The conference will examine how we can improve these efforts.”

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Leaders from federal, state, and city agencies in addition to policy experts from Princeton, Columbia and NYU along with local developers who have knowledge and expertise in the development of affordable housing will be attending. The discussion will focus on the issues Jersey City and the State of New Jersey face in preserving and creating homes that are affordable as well as the best and most feasible practices the city can implement moving forward to support Jersey City residents.

“We’re honored to partner with Jersey City to explore ways the City can create more affordable homes,” said **Staci Berger, president and chief executive officer of the HCDNNJ**. “This conference can be a model for communities in our state, as they work to meet the needs of their residents.”

Individuals interested in attending the event should RSVP at <http://housing.jcetp.us> or call Lisandra Reyes at (551) 222-4335.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////