

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR



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Jersey City to Raise the Flag of Colombia In Celebration of 200 years of Independence

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council and the Division of Cultural Affairs will be raising the flag of the **Republic of Colombia** at **1:00 p.m.** in City Hall, 280 Grove Street on **Tuesday, July 20, 2010** to mark the formation of the country's first representative council against Spanish rule.

“I congratulate the people of Colombia as they celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of independence,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The Colombian community in Jersey City has contributed greatly to the social and economic fabric of our city. On this day, we celebrate together the pride, rich ethnic traditions and cultural ancestry of Colombians and commend the country for the remarkable courage and dedication in their effort to move toward a more stable and prosperous nation.”

Colombia, the fourth largest economy in Latin America, recognizes its Independence Day on July 20 each year to mark the formation of the country's first representative council in 1810 against Spanish rule.

During the pre-Columbian period, the area now known as Colombia was inhabited by indigenous societies who are considered to have been one of the most developed indigenous groups in South America. Santa Marta was the first permanent Spanish settlement founded in 1525 and Santa Fe de Bogota was founded in 1538. In 1717, it later became the capital of the Viceroyalty of New Granada, which included what are now Venezuela, Ecuador, and Panama. Bogota was one of three principal administrative centers of the Spanish possessions in the New World.

On July 20, 1810, the citizens of Bogota created the first representative council to defy Spanish authority. The country pays tribute to their hero, Simon Bolivar, for leading their cause and the Battle of Boyaca in 1819 which enabled them to secure independence for Greater Colombia. Full independence was proclaimed in 1813, and in 1819 the Republic of greater Colombia was formed.

Present at the event will be organizations, such as Urban League, Horizon Health Services, Woman Rising, and My Sisters Keeper.

For more information, contact the division of Cultural Affairs at 201-547-6921.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///