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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2015

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Mayor Fulop Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of National Older Americans Month by Adding Two New Buses to City Senior Affairs Fleet

Jersey City is Encouraging Seniors to Stay Active and Get Involved by Expanding Activities and Recreational Opportunities

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and the Department of Health & Human Services are pleased to announce the **expansion of the Senior Affairs busing fleet with the addition of two new buses**, providing more ways for seniors to participate in city-sponsored shopping trips, movie outings, and other recreational activities as the administration continues to expand opportunities for senior citizens.

The announcement of the two new buses, both 29-passenger and fully air-conditioned vehicles, is in time for the **50th Anniversary of National Older Americans Month**, which celebrates the contributions of senior citizens in America. This year’s theme for Older Americans Month is “Get Into The Act,” a philosophy supported by the Fulop Administration, who is actively encouraging more senior engagement & requests for information to shape senior activities.

“Jersey City’s seniors are a strong and vibrant part of our community and we like to recognize their contributions every day, but especially during Older Americans Month,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “The two new buses will allow us to bring more seniors shopping and to events throughout the city, as we work to provide our seniors with as many opportunities as possible to stay active and involved.”

Under Mayor Fulop, the Division of Senior Citizens Affairs has visited more than 50 senior groups throughout the city to get their input on what programs they would like to see added or changed, and has used a survey to collect information. One of the top concerns for seniors was the bus scheduling, which has been expanded and improved, as well as purchasing of new buses. Other immediate concerns included adding more line dancing classes and expanding services for seniors at The Bethune Center.

The Division of Senior Citizens Affairs has also purchased computers for both city-run senior centers – the Joseph Connors Center on Paterson Street and the Maureen Collier Center on Bergen Avenue – and made both centers wi-fi accessible so any senior can use their laptop or tablet at the center.

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Senior Affairs, whose leadership has more than 20 years experience serving seniors, is also developing two new programs, “Conversations of a Lifetime,” which is a series of events helping seniors make their end of life decisions, and an Aging in Place home improvement program, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Hudson County, for small repair jobs – such as wheelchair ramps, door widening, louder doorbells – for seniors which will allow them to remain at home rather than going into a nursing home.

“We are so grateful to Mayor Fulop for the two new buses for seniors, which we have needed for so long,” said **Mary Jones, President, of Mt. Olive Seniors**. “This will provide many more seniors with transportation and we can’t wait for our next trip so we can ride in style.”

The Recreation Department has also expanded offerings for seniors by launching Senior Power Walk at Hudson Mall, senior power fitness at NJCU, and has doubled the number of senior shopping trips. Last year, the City hosted the first Senior Games, in which more than 100 Jersey City seniors participated in games like line dancing, basketball, billiards, and other activities.

“I am extremely pleased that Mayor Fulop has enhanced the Division of Senior Citizens Affairs and is actively involving our seniors in the planning process for new programs by asking our opinions in a survey and listening to our ideas,” said **Charles Stofko, President of Jersey City AARP Chapter 5102**. “We look forward to even more exciting opportunities and programs for our seniors.”

About Older Americans Month

May is recognized nationally as Older Americans Month. When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthday. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. A meeting in April 1963 between President John F. Kennedy and members of the National Council of Senior Citizens led to designating May as “Senior Citizens Month,” the prelude to “Older Americans Month. Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since Kennedy has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs, and other such activities.

For more information about this or other programs sponsored by the **Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services at (201) 547-6800**.

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