



CITY OF JERSEY CITY

STEVEN M. FULOP, MAYOR

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## *Mayor Fulop Appoints Robert M. Cowan, 35-Year Veteran of the JCPD as Chief of Department; Chief Cowan Brings 25 Years of Supervisory Experience*

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** today announced the appointment of **Robert M. Cowan**, a 35-year veteran of the Jersey City Police Department, as **Chief of Police**. Cowan, a Jersey City resident, has served in a supervisory role in the Police Department for 25 years, most recently as Deputy Chief of Patrol of the 771-member force.

“Chief Cowan’s leadership has been especially critical during the first three months of our administration, where he has been both an integral part in developing our plan for targeted police sweeps and actively involved in the field operations leading to the arrest of more than 200 individuals. His vision is in line with mine, which is to move Jersey City forward and create one city – a safer city – for all of our residents. Furthermore, we wanted someone who has experience in patrol and a track record of being out on the front lines with the troops,” said **Mayor Fulop**.

“The Chief returned to duty each time after seven major surgeries, any one of which could have ended his career, to continue working in the patrol division. It is a testament to his commitment to return to patrol after suffering multiple line-of-duty injuries over 35 years that required him to miss months of duty for medical care – something others would have used as an opportunity to retire on a disability or take a desk job,” **Mayor Fulop** added.

Since June 1, Capt. Joseph Connors has been serving as Acting Chief of the Department. Connors, who has served on the force for 33 years and who is a Jersey City resident, is being appointed as Deputy Chief to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Chief Cowan. Mayor Fulop noted the close working relationship between Acting Chief Connors and Chief Cowan in implementing new policies, creating accountability within the department, redeploying personnel and building stronger relationships with the community.

“We are proud of the leadership Chief Cowan has displayed and view the department as already moving in the right direction,” said **Public Safety Director James Shea**. “We know that Chief Cowan’s experience, knowledge of the department and the city, and dedication will further our mission of making Jersey City one of the safest mid-size cities in America.”

In addition to Connors, former commander of the Internal Affairs Unit, Joseph Delaney, is being promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief to fill a vacancy created when a number of superior officers retired in June. Delaney, a Jersey City resident, is a 28-year veteran of the Police Department.

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“We are pleased with the changes Mayor Fulop is making to the Police Department, including adding more foot patrols, establishing a Citizen Advisory Board, and creating measures of accountability,” said **Rev. Reginald McRae, of Mt. Pisgah AME Church**. “We look forward to working with the new leadership in the department and appreciate the Mayor’s commitment to working with the community.”

“We applaud the new leadership of the Police Department and are pleased both with the significant number of officers set to join the force over the next year along with expanding out reach with the business community throughout all of Jersey City,” said **Maria Nieves, President & CEO of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce**.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary for the City of Jersey City, at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////**