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100 Steps Project in Jersey City Heights to be Named “Bill Gaughan Way” in Honor of Longest Serving Jersey City Councilman & Champion of Project; Gaughan Served Five Terms Under Four Mayors Never Losing an Election

JERSEY CITY – Mayor **Steven M. Fulop** and members of the **Jersey City Municipal Council** announced today that the **100 Steps project** connecting the Jersey City Heights to Hoboken will be named “**Bill Gaughan Way**” after Jersey City’s longest serving councilman and champion of the plan.

Bill Gaughan, the longest serving councilman in Jersey City history, moved to Jersey City in 1959 after serving in the United States Navy. He represented the Heights community of Jersey City for 20 years, being first elected in 1993 with Mayor Bret Schundler. He served five terms under four mayors and never lost a single election.

During his twenty-year tenure on the Council, Bill Gaughan spearheaded numerous initiatives which improved both his ward and the City such as bringing Hudson-Bergen Light Rail service to Congress Street, creating more affordable-housing in the Heights, successfully advocating for the renovation of Washington Park and for the completion of the 100 Steps project connecting the Heights with Franklin Street, Paterson Plank Road, Hoboken and the Second Street Light Rail Station.

“Bill Gaughan served on the City Council for 20 years and this project was something both he and the community worked together tirelessly to achieve,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Despite setbacks over the years, Bill never lost sight of the goal of restoring these steps for the residents of the Heights. It is an honor to name the 100 Steps as ‘Bill Gaughan Way’ for our longest-serving councilman who contributed so much to the Heights and Jersey City.”

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At their meeting next week, the City Council will introduce an ordinance to officially adopt the new name for the staircase, which opened to the public in November 2013.

“I am thankful to Mayor Fulop and the City Council for this honor,” said **former Councilman Bill Gaughan**. “I was proud to dedicate two decades of my life to the daily concerns and causes of my neighbors and fellow small business owners in The Heights. Many local community organizations helped me deliver positive change during my years in city government — be it a new school, a new firehouse or restoring these steps. On this issue, I was proud to work with the dedicated members of the Riverview Neighborhood Association. It is a pleasure to see our shared hope for a restoration of the steps finally become reality.”

The 100 Steps project is a restoration of the original “**Franklin Street Steps**” which were built more than a century ago and were torn down in the 1990s. The new steps provide one of the quickest and easiest access routes for Heights residents to reach Hoboken.

The \$1 million project consists of a metal stairway with open grate treads on concrete piers, concrete curb and sidewalk at the approaches, a chain link fence, decorative lights, landscaping and signs.

“It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the public side by side with Bill Gaughan for more than twenty years,” said **Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise**. “As my colleague on the Jersey City Municipal Council and as my Chief of Staff, Bill has served the people of the Jersey City Heights and Hudson County with a remarkable combination of energy, dignity and dedication. Thanks to Mayor Fulop and the City Council for recognizing a true public servant and a true gentleman in this way.”

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