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Jersey City Touts Major Reduction in Crime as Year Comes to an End; Shootings Down 17.5 Percent Citywide as CeaseFire Unit Continues to Effectively Reduce Shootings

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** and **Public Safety Director James Shea** announced today that Jersey City has seen a **major reduction in crime** as 2014 comes to an end with **shootings down 17.5 percent citywide** and a 40 percent arrest rate in non-fatal shootings.

“This year we saw major progress on shootings, homicides and arrests, although we had a slight increase in the absolute numbers of homicides, the reality is that the city had five domestic dispute homicides which the public knows no police officer can prevent as they happen between people living in the same household,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “In the areas where law enforcement can make an impact, we have seen considerable progress and are continuing to work to bring the numbers down even further.”

While homicides saw a slight uptick, the increase is due in large part to an increase in domestic homicides from two in 2013 to five in 2014, as well as a case of arson. The number of shootings decreased from 91 in 2013 to 75 in 2014, as reported by the State Police’s Regional Operational and Intelligence Center (ROIC).

Crime is down in all of the following major categories this year in Jersey City compared to last year.

- Aggravated assaults are down 34 percent from 537 in 2013 to 354 in 2014
- Robberies are down 12 percent this year from 652 in 2013 to 573 in 2014
- Armed robberies are down 23 percent this year from 259 in 2013 to 197 in 2014
- Burglaries are down six percent from 1,133 in 2013 to 1,056 in 2014
- Sexual assaults are down 18 percent from 55 in 2013 to 45 in 2014
- Auto theft is down 23 percent from 567 in 2013 to 432 in 2014
- Larceny is down five percent from 2,674 in 2013 to 2,545 in 2014

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In it's first full year, the Jersey City Police Department CeaseFire Unit has made arrests in 40 percent of all non-fatal shootings, with arrests in 36 out of 90 open cases. The investigative work by detectives in the CeaseFire Unit has helped the department close cases more quickly and prevent additional shootings.

This year, the Jersey City Police Department lost Detective Melvin Santiago, who was assassinated in July.

“To accomplish this crime decline while also dealing with the tragic loss of Detective Santiago and the nationwide climate surrounding policing, speaks volumes about the professionalism and abilities of the men and women of the Jersey City Police Department,” said **Director Shea**. “They continue to set a high standard for our future efforts.”

This year, the administration also hired 38 police officers in June and another class of 60 officers is scheduled to enter the police academy in early 2015. Funding for 15 of the new officers comes from a \$1.875 million COPS grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The administration has also implemented in 2014 a new table of organization – the first such organizational structure of its kind in 20 years. The new table of organization outlines the needs for the department, assigns new officers to street level units, increases training for new officers, establishes a better chain of command and structure for the department, as well as increased accountability.

In 2014, the Fulop administration also took the proactive step of aggressively working to increase the diversity of the Jersey City Police Department. The JCPD is actively recruiting in the African-American, Hispanic and Asian communities, using the Marine Corps recruiting model with our first-ever minority recruitment office in the HUB, to ensure a police department that reflects the diversity of Jersey City. Jersey City, under the leadership of Mayor Fulop, was also the first city in the state of New Jersey to promote from the Department of Justice sergeant list, ensuring that supervising officers also represent the community.

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