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Mayor Fulop Joins National Coalition of Mayors in Support of Immigration Reform to Protect Thousands of Hardworking Jersey City Families

Coalition Files Amicus Brief Supporting President Obama's Executive Action on Immigration in Federal Lawsuit that Seeks to Halt Implementation of Measure that Protects Approximately 4 Million Undocumented Immigrants from Deportation and Separation from their Families

JERSEY CITY – Protecting thousands of hardworking Jersey City families, **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** has joined **Cities United for Immigration Action** – a **national coalition of mayors** – in filing an **amicus brief in a federal lawsuit** that seeks to halt implementation of President Obama's executive action on immigration that would shield approximately 4 million undocumented immigrants from deportation.

“Jersey City, home to the Statue of Liberty, has one of the most diverse communities in the nation,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Immigration reform is about creating pathways to citizenship for these thousands of hardworking members of our community, many we know as friends and neighbors. Delaying this important executive action by President Obama only hurts our residents and our cities. We will stand together as mayors to challenge these opponents of immigration reform.”

President Obama's executive action on immigration, announced in November, provides for the parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to request deferred action and employment authorization for three years, provided they have lived in the United States continuously since January 1, 2010, and pass required background checks. This measure is expected to protect approximately 4 million undocumented immigrants who currently live and work in the United States from deportation and the fear of being separated from their children and families.

In December, 25 states led by Republican governors filed a lawsuit, ***Texas vs United States***, in Federal District Court for the Southern District of Texas, seeking to halt the implementation of the President's immigration executive action.

The coalition of 35 mayors – led by New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Houston Mayor Annise Parker – is seeking to demonstrate that **public interest overwhelmingly weighs in favor implementation of executive action**, a critical factor the court must consider in deciding whether to issue a preliminary injunction in the lawsuit. The cities represented by the amici Mayors together account for 6.9 million immigrants.

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Jersey City has always been a city of immigrants, with more than half of the population being foreign born. Every day, more than 75 languages are spoken in the Jersey City public schools.

Since taking office, Mayor Fulop has established an Office of Diversity & Inclusion, which offers English-language classes, citizenship classes and other services for Jersey City's immigrant community. In 2014, partnering with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, two naturalization ceremonies were held in Jersey City with 60 residents becoming citizens at City Hall.

According to the Pew Foundation's Hispanic Trends Project, "children with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent accounted for 6.9 percent of U.S. students in kindergarten through 12th grade." The study further reported that of these children, most were born in the United States, making them American citizens.

Earlier in January, a group of twelve states joined by the District of Columbia filed an amicus brief challenging the lawsuit by arguing that, contrary to the plaintiffs' claims, the President's executive action will in fact "further the public interest" of states and their residents, both immigrants and citizens. A group of 27 law enforcement leaders and other groups have also filed amicus briefs in support of the President's executive action.

By submitting this "friend of the court" brief, America's Mayors are making a strong statement in support of the President's plan to grant administrative relief to over 4 million undocumented children and adults.

The amicus brief will demonstrate to the Court that executive action will benefit cities by providing work authorization to millions, increasing local tax revenue and stimulating local economies, facilitating the civic engagement of immigrants, keeping families together, and improving public safety by strengthening our neighborhoods and communities.

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