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Mayor Fulop Announces Building Department to Open on Saturdays as Administration Continues to Expand Services for Residents and Small Business Owners; Jersey City is the Only Large City in New Jersey Offering Saturday Building Department Hours

Pilot Program Will Allow Residents to Submit Contractor Registrations, File Construction Applications and Pick Up Permits Among Other Services

JERSEY CITY – Mayor **Steven M. Fulop** announced today that the **Building Department will now offer Saturday hours** as part of a 30-day pilot program as the Fulop Administration continues to expand services for residents and small business owners.

Jersey City is currently the only large city in New Jersey as well as the only municipality in Hudson County offering Saturday Building Department hours.

The office will be open **from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays beginning this Saturday, April 18, 2015**. If demand is consistently high for the weekend hours, the Saturday Building Department pilot – which makes the process easier for residents and also encourages building that supports the local economy – may be expanded to include inspections and other in-field services.

“We know not all of our residents can conduct business during regular hours, which is why we added evenings and now Saturday Building Department hours,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “One of our goals has been to make government work for the residents, and that means providing the services and programs in the times and places that people need them.”

Residents seeking home improvements, renovations to rental properties, or other Building Department services will be able to visit the Building Department office to complete applications, contractor registrations, pick up documents and permits, among other services. The expanded hours will also assist small business owners by providing additional times for them to conduct Building Department business.

One of the first initiatives of the Fulop Administration after taking office was to professionalize the Building Department, expediting the permitting process. That has included streamlined administrative services, inspectors who utilize handheld tablets in the field, more staff to assist walk-in customers, and expanded weeknight hours.

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As a result of these changes, more than **150 small businesses have opened in Jersey City since Mayor Fulop took office, including more than 50 restaurants**. Last week, Mayor Fulop proposed an ordinance limiting the number of chain stores and franchise businesses in downtown Jersey City to further support small businesses.

“We have seen many improvements to the Building Department under Mayor Fulop and this is the next step in providing greater access for residents and business owners,” said **Herb Curdgele, a Jersey City resident and business owner, whose customers require Building Department services**. “Offering evening and weekend hours is a great service so residents don’t have to take off of work to file a permit to make improvements in their home. It shows the Mayor understands the needs of the local community.”

Current weekday hours at the Building Department are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In addition to expanding Building Department hours, the Resident Response Center – which fields all constituent concerns – was expanded by Mayor Fulop, with the office open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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). ///