



STEVEN M. FULOP
MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

CITY OF JERSEY CITY OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL | 280 GROVE STREET | JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
P: 201 547 5500 | F: 201 547 5442



STEVEN M. FULOP
MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2014

Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

Fields Development Group to Repair Damages to Korean War Memorial & Upgrade Monument After Vandals Damage Lighting

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop, Council President Rolando Lavarro, Jr. and Ward E Councilwoman Candice Osborne today announced that a local developer, **Fields Development Group**, has stepped in to help repair damages to the Korean War Memorial that were reported yesterday.

Members of the Korean War Veterans of Jersey City filed a police report yesterday after visiting the memorial and finding several of the floodlights were damaged and that there was graffiti at the site.

“I read the article on nj.com about the vandalism of the memorial and was outraged,” said **Rob Caulfield, a partner with Fields Development Group**. “My father was an Army veteran and my grandfather served in World War II, so to see this type of disrespect for our veterans was heartbreaking. We felt the need to do something.”

Caulfield emailed Mayor Fulop and said that the company would provide any services or money needed to repair the memorial. Today, staff from the company visited the memorial to determine what would need to be done and is currently developing work plans. In addition to repairing the damaged floodlights, the company will upgrade lighting at the memorial and repair lights that are not functioning, restore the granite at the base, and remove any graffiti.

“This is an example of how one kind act can trump a malicious deed,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We thank the Caulfield family and Fields Development Group for their generous gift to repair and upgrade the memorial and for recognizing how important these monuments are for our veterans, their families and our entire community. We appreciate the sacrifices our veterans have made and the support of our community in remembering them.”

Council President Rolando Lavarro, Jr. also thanked the Fields Development Group.

“We are fortunate to have such good corporate citizens in Jersey City,” said **Council President Lavarro**. “Our Jersey City businesses are truly a part of our entire community, and gestures such as this show how they understand that when one of us is harmed, we are all harmed. Thank you to Fields for this generous donation.”

(more)

(2)

Councilwoman Osborne, who represents the downtown Ward E community where the memorial stands, also thanked Fields Development for their offer to repair the memorial.

“While it is disappointing to think that someone could damage something so sacred as a memorial to our fallen soldiers, it is also uplifting to know we have people in the community who will step in and donate their own time and money to restore an important monument,” said **Councilwoman Osborne**. “The downtown community thanks Fields Development for their thoughtful gesture.”

In 2001, the City Council adopted an ordinance dedicating the Korean War Memorial be built in the bed at the foot of Washington Street. Each year, a memorial service is held at the monument recognizing the casualties of the Korean War.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea igniting the Korean War. The United States joined the war on South Korea’s behalf two days later. Fighting endured for 13 months, and in the process, more than 36,000 American soldiers died in battle. After suffering enormous human casualties, countries involved in the Korean War ended the conflict on July 27th, 1951 with the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

The investigation into the vandalism at the memorial is ongoing, and the Jersey City Police Department will be reviewing video cameras in the area and will be speaking with building management. Anyone with information on the matter, is asked to contact the Jersey City Police Department at 201-547-JAIL.

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