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Mayor Fulop & Councilman Ramchal Announce Aggressive Pothole Repair Plan; Strategy Includes Purchasing Two New Pothole Trucks, Tripling of Staff, & Moving Function to the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority to Create Greater Efficiency

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** and **Ward B Councilman Khemraj ‘Chico’ Ramchal** announced today an **aggressive pothole repair plan** that includes the purchasing of two new pothole trucks, a tripling of staff dedicated to pothole repairs, and the moving of the function within the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority to create greater efficiency.

The number of staff dedicated to pothole repair will be tripled from four to twelve employees, and the City will acquire two additional pothole trucks bringing the total to five, allowing the MUA to aggressively respond to pothole complaints. Pothole response times are expected to be accelerated significantly, with the MUA aiming to turnaround complaint within 24 hours.

“While we have filled more than 5,000 potholes this year, we are always looking for ways we can do better, streamline services and eliminate redundancies,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “That is why we will purchase new equipment, add staff and bring the pothole repairs into the MUA where they can be coordinated with United Water and our underground utilities.”

“Many potholes are related to structural issues with below ground infrastructure, so folding this into the MUA will assist us in identifying those locations that require sewer or water main repairs,” added **Mayor Fulop**.

Mayor Fulop credited Councilman Ramchal with the idea of moving pothole repairs into the MUA, which has the additional resources and manpower to truly dedicate a staff strictly for this function. Currently, DPW staff assigned to pothole repairs handle other duties, including snow removal in the winter. This change will allow for the MUA to operate 24/7 even during the winter as opposed to suspending pothole repairs.

“This new aggressive approach to pothole repairs reduces the duplication of services, increases response times to have potholes fixed, and reduces the costs for the City,” said **Councilman Ramchal**. “This is a win-win for the city and the residents, as this proactive and innovative way to address this issue of pothole repairs not only make the service more efficient, but will also reduce costs for our residents.”

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From January 1, 2014 to July 9, 2014, the City has filled 5,381 potholes filled at 920 locations. However, following a review by the administration of the pothole repair operation, a decision was made to invest more resources – including equipment and personnel – and to have the MUA perform the function for better coordination.

Pothole Repairs by Ward, Jan. 1, 2014 through July 9, 2014:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Number of Potholes Filled</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Ward A	1,011	139
Ward B	693	165
Ward C	921	152
Ward D	568	164
Ward E	415	70
Ward F	1,761	230
Unknown	12	12

“The MUA is looking forward to this new responsibility of citywide pothole repair which coordinates perfectly with our ongoing operations,” said **Dan Becht, Executive Director of the MUA**. “We know residents expect a quick turnaround on pothole repairs and with a staff of 12 dedicated to this function the MUA can deliver on this important service.”

Residents will continue to report pothole complaints to the Resident Response Center by calling 201-547-4900, or using the ‘RRC Fix It’ mobile app or online request form at www.jerseycitynj.gov.

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