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***Mayor Steven M. Fulop Continues to Support Veterans with Creation of Veterans
Advisory Task Force and Division of Veterans Affairs***

***Through an Executive Order, Mayor Fulop to Establish Multi-Disciplinary Veterans Advisory Task Force to Advise
and Assist the New Division of Veterans Affairs***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop**, today, signed an executive order creating the Veterans Advisory Task Force in anticipation of the new Division of Veterans Affairs which will be established through a vote by the City Council on Wednesday, March 28th. Both the new Division and the Advisory Task Force will reinforce the City’s ongoing commitment to providing services and assistance to veterans, while developing new ways to support these individuals and their families.

“As a veteran myself, I am proud of the work we have done to take care of our City’s veterans, and this Executive Order is yet another step in ensuring that we are doing all we can to continue to help those that have served our country,” said Mayor Fulop. “From veterans housing projects, to our veterans parade, each project or program is our small way of saying ‘thank you’ to these men and women for all they have done.”

The upcoming Ordinance establishes this new Division under the Health and Human Services Department, whereas it had previously been known as the Bureau of Veterans Affairs within the Resident Response Center. The revamped Division will be responsible for developing forward-thinking opportunities and partnerships to improve quality of life and establishing health and wellness programs for veterans, military personnel, and families, by collaborating across both private and public sectors.

The Task Force will be charged with enhancing capacities to best address the needs of Jersey City’s veterans, military personnel, and families in order to guide the new Division. This includes needs in the areas of health and wellness, housing, education and vocational training, employment and career transition, community integration and service, transportation and quality of life, and benefits, celebrations, and memorials. The Task Force will also work with outside veterans service organizations, other community associations, and nonprofit organizations, who continue to play a large role in helping to provide services to veterans within Jersey City and throughout New Jersey.

The Task Force will consist of seven voting members, as well as the Director of Veterans Affairs. Four members will be appointed by the Council and three members will be appointed by the Mayor. Each member of the task force will be required to meet specific criteria to ensure diverse perspectives and areas of functional expertise.

These members include: A veteran discharged no more than ten years, a veteran discharged no less than ten years, a veteran who possesses demonstrable and substantive experience, influence, and relationships in Jersey City's business community and private sector, a City Councilmember, an educational professional, a healthcare professional, and a business professional who all have demonstrable, substantive expertise relevant to veterans affairs.

The Fulop Administration has made veterans issues a priority, building the first ever housing for homeless veterans and answering First Lady Michelle Obama's commitment to end veteran homelessness. Since 2013, the Administration has built over 50 units for veterans throughout several developments, which include social services provided by local organizations.

In January, the City Council approved the latest veterans project, a 20-unit veterans priority development on Ocean Avenue in Jersey City. The City has partnered with the non-profit group Community Hope to provide supportive services to the homeless veterans, as well as the Curtis Consulting Group, LLC who provides vocational training gear specifically towards veterans.

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