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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Jan. 6, 2014

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***Jersey City Residents to Attend White House Press Event  
Where President Obama Will Urge Congress to Extend  
Unemployment Benefits***

**JERSEY CITY – Two Jersey City residents will attend** a White House press event tomorrow where President Obama will again urge Congress to **renew unemployment benefits** which have expired for 1.3 million Americans and 90,000 New Jerseyans.

The invitation was prompted by a recent Huffington Post column written by Mayor Steven M. Fulop regarding the extension of unemployment benefits.

“President Obama understands the importance of restoring unemployment benefits not only for Jersey City residents looking for work, but for all Americans,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “The President also understands that in order for Jersey City to continue grow, Jersey City families must be able to advance themselves. Jersey City is a leader in driving the state’s economy, but even with that, many of our residents are facing real hardship as unemployment benefits have been left to expire. I look forward to continuing to work with President Obama and our federal delegation to reinstitute these benefits.”

In his weekly address Saturday, President Obama urged Congress to extend unemployment benefits for a minimum of three months. On Dec. 28th, an emergency program that provided up to 47 weeks of supplemental payment to the long-term unemployed expired after Congress failed to extend it as part of a two-year budget deal passed prior to the holidays.

The invitation comes just a few weeks after Mayor Fulop and a group of 13 newly-elected Mayors met with President Obama at the White House to discuss issues facing urban areas.

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The two Jersey City residents who will attend the event are:

Pamela Powell, 49, of Warner Avenue, a mother and grandmother, was downsized from her job in the loan serving department of a local bank. She had been employed 9 years and her family now relies on the income of her husband, which is causing stress for the entire family.

Thurman Hart, 46, of Manhattan Avenue, a father of twin, 7-year old boys, was not reappointed to his position as political science professor. He continues to look for employment and is also pursuing a career change.

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