



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
Feb. 20, 2014

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

Mayor Fulop Criticizes Board of Education for Limiting Public Comment; City Officials Should be Encouraging Open & Transparent Government

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** today blasted the Jersey City Board of Education for its recent decision to significantly limit the public speaking portions at its meetings and halting the video recording and broadcast of those comments.

“Our residents deserve the opportunity to speak on all matters that their elected officials are debating and voting on and that goes for the Board of Education as well as the municipal government,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “I have always advocated for open and transparent government and we should be finding ways to make the process more transparent, not less.”

In January, the board voted to limit speakers to speaking only once at the public meetings. Previously, speakers could speak on specific agenda items as well as during a public speaking session. The Board of Education has also stopped videotaping and therefore broadcasting the meetings on JC1TV, which for some residents who cannot attend the meetings, is the only way they can hear the public portion.

“When I was a councilman, we advocated for the City Council meetings to be taped and aired on Channel One because previously they had not been,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “I am disappointed that the Board of Education is taking this step backwards. They were elected on a promise of transparency and should respect the wishes of their constituents.”

The change also requires any public speakers to notify public school officials at least one day prior if they want to make general comments or speak on an agenda item.

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