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***Mayor Fulop Announces Police Leadership Change,
Structural Changes in the Department, and Goal to Implement
Best Police Practices & Improve Morale;
Announcement First of Several Administration Changes After Year One in Office***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop today sent a letter to the City Council notifying them of his **removal of Police Chief Robert Cowan** as head of the police department citing the administration’s wishes to make further structural changes within the department, implement best police practices and improve morale. The removal will be effective 20 days from notification per state law and will be the first of several administration changes after year one in office.

“I want to thank Chief Cowan for his service and commitment to the Jersey City Police Department” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Particularly, he helped address an historic low number of officers in the department by redeploying personnel, dealt with our ongoing safety and infrastructure concerns at the Port Authority’s Global Marine Terminal due to heavy truck traffic, implemented safety measures during the Super Bowl, and worked with the Pulaski Closure Planning Team to develop a citywide traffic mitigation plan.”

This evening, the City Council will be voting on an introduction of a new ordinance for a table of organization for the department that will provide clarity, eliminate politics, and be more consistent with federal guidelines for best practices within police departments.

“As we approach the one-year mark, we also recognize there are issues which must be addressed in order to further improve our policing and morale in the Jersey City Police Department,” said **Mayor Fulop**.

In notifying the City Council, Mayor Fulop also pointed to his growing concern over the number of lawsuits alleging retaliation by Chief Cowan and his resistance to best practices. An Acting Chief of the Department will be named to oversee the department until a new Chief is appointed.

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“This change clearly states that as an administration we expect a high standard and will always demand the best performance from our employees as this is what Jersey City residents deserve,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “This is the first change of our year end review and it is clear we believe no job is permanent and performance on behalf of residents is a priority.”

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