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Health & Human Services Distributes 125 Donated EarthBoxes to Local Community Groups

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in partnership with City Green donated 125 EarthBoxes to local community groups and other organizations throughout the City to create beds to grow fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs, with four cubic feet of planting soil.

“Many of our residents have taken an interest in urban agriculture, but don’t necessarily have the open space to garden” said Mayor Fulop. “The introduction of EarthBoxes, however, makes it possible to garden anywhere, including paved parking lots and patios. Devices like this are crucial to expanding urban gardening initiatives throughout Jersey City, in turn benefiting the environment, aesthetics, and well-being of our community.”

In April, 125 EarthBoxes were donated to the Department Health & Human Services by City Green, a non-profit group dedicated to promoting gardening in urban areas. HHS then devised a plan to have the boxes distributed to interested groups in Jersey City, keeping 15 boxes on the Department’s Summit Avenue campus for the first ever HHS garden.

The EarthBoxes were distributed with the assistance of the Department of Public Works to the Maureen Collier Senior Center, and to two Berry Gardens senior complexes. Following the distribution, Lorraine and Andrew Gibbons of Garden State Urban Farms lead a series of trainings at each location on the proper use of EarthBoxes for maximum crop yield.

EarthBoxes can yield a significant amount of produce, with yield amounts varying by crop. The following are examples of crop yields:

Tomatoes: 30lb. per growing season
Squash: 30lb. per growing season
Peppers: 10lb. per growing season
Okra: 5lb. per growing season
Collards: 10lb. per growing season
Cucumbers: 20 per box

Inquiries about the Adopt-a-Lot community gardening program should be directed toward Evette Gaetan, the Adopt-a-Lot Coordinator, at (201) 547-6800.

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