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***Mayor Fulop Announces Vacant Lot Registration & Maintenance Ordinance; Similar to Vacant Building Registration, Program to Improve Quality of Life & Generate Revenue***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and the Department of Housing, Economic Development and Commerce/ Division of Housing Code Enforcement today announced a new initiative the City will use to enforce the maintenance of vacant lots and buildings in order to improve quality of life throughout the City.

The **Vacant Lot Registration ordinance**, in effect since July 1st, 2014, requires the owners of vacant lots to register the property with the City, pay a \$250 registration fee and sets the standards for how these lots must be maintained, including fencing requirements, lot cleaning and sidewalk maintenance.

“The vacant lot registration ordinance and code enforcement standards will make Jersey City cleaner, safer, and improve the quality of life for residents,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We have seen the impact the vacant building registration has had and this was the next step in ensuring property owners are responsible and that our community is kept clean and safe.”

Only a few weeks underway, the Division of Housing Code Enforcement has already registered numerous vacant lots. There are approximately 1,500 vacant lots citywide. Vacant building registrations have numbered more than 1,200 since 2012, with hundreds of these already renewed. This has successfully generated more than \$500,000 since 2012, and city officials anticipate a similar revenue stream with the vacant lot registrations.

The Vacant Lot Registration Ordinance, amending Chapter 254 of the City Code, came as a result of numerous police calls, city inspections, citizen complaints, and a demonstrated need to lower costs associated with maintaining vacant properties. The ordinance also stipulates that all owners must provide updated contact information for input into a city database, thus ensuring that all housing inspectors and city officials can reach the owner quickly either by cell phone or email, which is critical during periods of inclement weather or hazardous situations.

City inspections have shown that many hazards during wintertime, such as snow and ice-covered sidewalks, in addition to year-round complaints of weeds and disposed garbage, have often been at vacant lot addresses.

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