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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 27, 2014

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***Mayor Fulop Announces Partnership with Jersey City Free Public Library & the Literacy Program to Offer ESL & Citizenship Classes at City Hall; Literacy Classes Will Also Offer Pre-GED Courses at a Variety of Library Locations throughout the City***

**JERSEY CITY** – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and the Jersey City Office of Diversity and Inclusion have announced a partnership with the Jersey City Free Public Library/Literacy Program to offer **ESL and citizenship classes at City Hall**, as well as **pre-GED courses** at a variety of library locations throughout the city.

Classes that will be offered at Jersey City City Hall through the expansion of the Literacy Program include three levels of **English as a Second Language (ESL)**, one **Citizenship** course, and one **English Conversational** course.

“Jersey City is one of the most diverse communities in the country and we have made a commitment to providing services and resources for our immigrant community,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has been working closely with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to hold naturalization events at City Hall and we wanted to expand the citizenship opportunity for as many Jersey City residents as possible.”

“Additionally, we know many of our residents want to improve their English language skills and this is an affordable program to help them learn written and conversational English,” added **Mayor Fulop**.

The Literacy Program, through the Jersey City Free Public Library, will now also start offering pre-GED courses for students to help them prepare and succeed in GED classes and provide strategies for the GED Exam. Both the pre-GED courses and the new courses offered at City Hall are an expansion of the Literacy Program’s offerings, which previously provided a variety of courses in the Jersey City Free Public Library.

Courses available at the library include: basic reading instruction, citizenship courses, math, writing, and public speaking skills. Volunteer tutors are available through the program for students of all literacy levels ranging from non-readers to the eighth grade reading level.

**(more)**

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To be eligible for the program – at either the City Hall or the Library – adult students must be **residents of Hudson County 18 years or older**. Participants must pay a one-time \$20 application fee and a \$30 tuition fee each semester, which is used to cover all material costs. The first semester begins Sept. 15th, 2014 and ends on Jan. 24th, 2015.

To become a student of the Literacy Program, apply to be a volunteer tutor, or for any questions, call **201-547-4518** and schedule an appointment. Additional information is available on the **Literacy Program's website** <http://www.jclibrary.org/departments/literacy>, however interested applicants are encouraged to call the library. Registration for the Program ends on August 31st, 2014.

To contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for more information, contact Allison Solowsky at [Asolowsky@jcnj.org](mailto:Asolowsky@jcnj.org).

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