CITY OF JERSEY CITY

STEVEN M. FULOP, MAYOR

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Mayor Fulop Appoints Chief Municipal Court Judge & New Full-Time Judge; Establishes Policy for Court Appointments

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** announced today the appointment of Jersey City's **first Filipino-American Chief Municipal Court Judge**, Carlo Abad, and new full-time Judge Mark Curtis. With the new appointments, Mayor Fulop also outlined the process for presenting court appointments to the City Council for confirmation.

"Both Carlo Abad and Mark Curtis have outstanding records and we are confident in their ability to serve our Municipal Court, which is one of the busiest in the state," said **Mayor Fulop**. "Additionally, we recognize the value of having leadership in our court and throughout city government that represents our city's great diversity."

Just prior to the municipal election in May, the prior administration attempted to appoint Mr. Abad and former council candidate Ray Velazquez as the Chief Municipal Judge and full-time Judge respectively, however, the City Council voted against that appointment citing a lack of a proper process for vetting candidates for such a critical role.

Under the new protocol established by the Fulop administration, the appointment of judges to the Municipal Court will begin with the administration notifying the Council of their candidate and providing a resume and letter to the Council with the candidate's full background and credentials. The City Council will be given ample time, ideally a month or greater, to review the candidate's resume before a vote on the confirmation. In the case of Mr. Abad and Mr. Curtis, the Council was provided a month and a half to review their credentials.

"The prior administration had no process or protocol in place for such important appointments to our Court and municipal boards," said **Mayor Fulop.** "Instead, they would expect the City Council to make immediate decisions on a candidate without a full or proper review. This is something we pledged to change and we have."

Carlo Abad, a Filipino American, has been serving as Acting Chief Municipal Court Judge and has been serving on the bench in Jersey City since 2008. Prior to that, Mr. Abad served in the Newark Prosecutor's Office, the Jersey City Prosecutor's Office, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office, as well as working in several private law firms.

Mr. Curtis, a graduate of Seton Hall University Law School, has served as a Jersey City municipal prosecutor and long-time attorney practicing in Jersey City and Hudson County.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary for the City of Jersey City, at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699./////

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