

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Jersey City Celebrates Women's History Month with the 14th Annual "Women of Action" Awards

Mayor Healy and Municipal Council to Recognize Twenty-Seven Outstanding Women

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council, and the Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Cultural Affairs will honor 27 outstanding women during the 14th Annual “Women of Action” Awards Ceremony, in celebration of Women’s History Month. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, 2012 in the Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 280 Grove Street.

“Generations of women have taken the lead throughout history making significant contributions that have shaped our lives,” said Mayor Healy. “In paying tribute to them, we are also expressing our gratitude for all they have done for us and recognize their commitment to improving the lives of the people in their community.”

Women’s History Month is a great occasion that honors the women who have shaped history and touched so many lives. Sharing their stories of steadfast determination also teaches future generations that anything is within reach as long as they believe in themselves and that there is no obstacle too great for them.

The following twenty-seven Women of Action were chosen for their artistic, economic, innovative, political, or social contributions by each of the nine members of Jersey City’s Municipal Council:

Council President Peter Brennan

Pamela E. Gardner

Cynthia T. Harris

Diana Nunez

Councilwoman-At-Large Viola Richardson

Patricia Greene Alston

Robin Pinkowitz

Lycel Villanueva

Councilman-At-Large Rolando R. Lavarro, Jr.

Vidya Gangadin

Betty Martin

Rossana Villaflor

(more)

(2)

Councilman Mike Sottolano, Ward A	Elizabeth Deegan Diane Sears Phoebe Sottolano
Councilwoman David Donnelly, Ward B	Lauren “Luca” Cusolito Akisia Grigsby Andrea Koenig-Feldman
Councilman Nidia Lopez, Ward C	Rosalie Laureano Dorcey Yaskell Winant Esther Wintner
Councilman William A. Gaughan, Ward D	Irene Borngraeber Olga Maccaronio Patricia Roda
Councilman Steven Fulop, Ward E	Stephanie España Evette Gaetan Jacqueline Powell-Wicks
Councilwoman Michele Massey, Ward F	Dainty A. R. McIntyre, Ma Brenda Pettiford Denise Ridley

Sister Roseann Mazzeo, the *Women of Action* keynote speaker, serves as the Executive Director of *WomenRising, Inc.*, an organization dedicated to the empowerment and self-sufficiency of women and their families in Hudson County.

Sister Roseann is a member of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth and a life-long resident of Jersey City. She holds Master’s degrees in Public Administration from NYU, The Wagner School, and in Social Work from Rutgers University, as well as a BA in Sociology from the College of Saint Elizabeth.

Sister Roseann’s professional experience includes administrative and governance roles within hospitals, educational institutions, and social service organizations in Elizabeth, Jersey City, Manhattan, Passaic, and Suffern, NY. Her current affiliations include: Board of Directors, Bon Secours Charity Health System; the Hudson County Workforce Investment Board; Senator Cunningham’s Women’s Advisory Group; and the Steering Committee of the Bergen Communities United Neighborhood Organization.

About the Women of Action Awards Ceremony

The Women of Action Awards Ceremony began in Jersey City in 1995 and ran through 2001. In 2005, Mayor Healy & the Jersey City Division of Cultural Affairs reinstated this program. From its inception, the Women of Action event was intended to mark and celebrate Women's History Month by honoring women of achievement city-wide. It is appropriate that we host this program at City Hall annually in the month of March in observance of Women's History Month which dates back to the first International Women's Day in 1911. In 1987, Congress made the observance official by declaring the month of March 'National Women's History Month' in order to recognize the contributions of women to society and to promote the teaching of women's history.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///