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Fulop Administration Plan to Build City Hall Annex at the HUB Passes Council 7-2 Following Unanimous Vote by State Local Finance Board; $20 Million Project is Largest Investment in Ward F's History Fulfilling Promise to Bring Economic Development to Bergen-Lafayette

300 City Employees to Work at HUB Annex, Will Lead to New Restaurants and Shops; Building Will Save the City Tens of Millions of Dollars over Life of the Project

JERSEY CITY – Fulfilling a commitment to bring investment to Bergen-Lafayette, **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** announced tonight that the City Council has passed on second reading by a 7-2 vote an ordinance authorizing plans to build a new, **$20 million City Hall Annex at the HUB** on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. The Council vote follows the unanimous approval by the State Local Finance Board today of the City plan.

"This is a game changer for Bergen-Lafayette and will be the most significant investment in the history of Ward F," said **Mayor Fulop**. "More than 300 city employees will work here, shopping and dining at area establishments, and spur additional economic development including new housing and jobs.

"The city Hall Annex will help jumpstart the struggling shopping center and bring new life to the commercial district," added **Mayor Fulop**, who pledged to build the City Hall Annex during his recent State of the City Address. "We are investing public dollars into a community that has been overlooked and left behind. Today, that changes."

The project will also save the city significantly, as once built, offices will be relocated from more costly rental space. Over the life of the building, the project is expected to save taxpayers tens of millions of dollars as no longer will the city be obligated to expensive leases.

"I have no doubt that the City Hall Annex will be a catalyst along the MLK Drive," said **Council President Rolando Lavarro, Jr**. "This is an exciting project that will spur additional economic development, both commercial and residential, and provide jobs and growth for a part of the city that has been neglected far too long."

(more)

The HUB shopping center has been a partnership between the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency and Brandywine since 2006. The City Hall Annex will house the Department of Housing, Economic Development and Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, a Department of Public Safety office, the Resident Response Center and other city staff.

“This is the best thing that could happen to Ward F as it will bring business traffic and a beautiful development that will brighten up Martin Luther King Drive,” said **Ward F Councilwoman Diane Coleman**. “This will be a positive first step in the redevelopment of the area.”

The state-of-the-art annex, which will be financed through a lease-to-own agreement with Brandywine over 25 years, will be built by Brandywine at no cost to the city. The City will make monthly lease payments less than current leases and will ultimately own the facility.

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

Rendering of the HUB Annex: