

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

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Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

Jersey City Councilman-at-Large Radames “Ray” Velazquez, Jr. to Be Sworn in Velazquez is City’s First Openly Gay Councilman

JERSEY CITY – On Friday, October 1, 2010, Radames “Ray” Velazquez, Jr. will be sworn in as Jersey City Councilman-at-Large at a **12 p.m. ceremony** in **City Hall Council Chambers, 280 Grove Street**.

“Jersey City is one of the most diverse cities in the state and the nation, and we are proud that our diversity is reflected in leadership positions, both elected and appointed, in city government,” **said Mayor Healy**. “Ray Velazquez is a knowledgeable attorney and judge, and we are confident he will be a dedicated Councilman for the people of Jersey City.”

On Wednesday, Ray Velazquez, was confirmed by a unanimous 8-0 vote by the Jersey City Municipal Council. Councilman Velazquez, who previously served as a Freeholder representing the 4th District, will be sworn in by his brother, **Hudson County Superior Court Judge Hector R. Velazquez, JSC**.

Councilman Velazquez most recently served as a Jersey City Municipal Court Judge. A graduate of Rutgers College and the University of Notre Dame Law School, Ray Velazquez has operated his own law practice and also served as a partner in a prominent New Jersey law firm.

Velazquez, who comes from a large family, is the proud father of his son, Justin, who he adopted in 2000. Justin is a sophomore at Ferris High School and loves his Ferris Bulldogs.

“I am glad to represent all of the people of Jersey City. However, I am particularly proud to represent those groups of people who need a voice to advocate on their behalf on those issues that affect them in a unique way,” **said Ray Velazquez**. “All of Jersey City deserves a voice and I am glad that my voice speaks for so many people, including those often underrepresented in position of authority.”

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