



CITY OF  
**JERSEY CITY**  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Division of Cultural Affairs



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Annual Martin Luther King Oratory Contest to be  
Held in City Hall Council Chambers  
Mayor Healy to Present Awards to City's Top Orators***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy will host the final round of the Twelfth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratory Contest from **3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2007 at City Hall, 280 Grove Street.**

The top orators will be chosen during the event, which is sponsored by Bank of America and is part of the City's **Black History Month** festivities.

“Our annual Oratory Contest provides a great opportunity for Jersey City school children to learn about Dr. Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement,” **Mayor Healy** said. “In addition, the public speaking skills acquired through this process will stay with them as they grow and will help them in all aspects of their lives.”

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The contestants, who are broken down into two grade categories – the grade 3 to 5 group and the grade 6 to 8 group – must memorize and present an original work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which is judged by representatives of the business community.

Each year, public, private and charter schools across the city are notified of the contest, and asked to hold an internal selection process in which they send two students to compete in each grade category.

The oration must be memorized and no longer than 10 minutes. Each presentation will be judged according to length, clarity, memorization, and overall presentation.

Approximately 80 students will participate in the City Hall contest, with twelve students making it to the final round of competition.

The following prizes will be awarded by Mayor Healy to the top students in each of the two categories:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize -- \$500 savings bond

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize -- \$250 savings bond

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize -- \$100 savings bond

Honorable Mention -- a book of Martin Luther King's original works

All of the awards are provided by Bank of America, who has sponsored the event for the past five years.

The Oratory Contest is one element of the Division of Cultural Affairs' month-long tribute to African-American history and culture as the City celebrates Black History Month.

Other events include the **Black History Month Group Show** being held through the end of the month in City Hall's John W. Meagher Rotunda Gallery and the **Black History Month Program** to be held at the historic Loew's Theatre in Journal Square.

For more information, **contact the Division of Cultural Affairs at 201-547-6921.///**