

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Mayor Healy to Cut Ribbon at the Van Vorst Park Dog Run City and community praised for collaboration on state-of-the-art dog run***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy will lead a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly constructed dog run at Van Vorst Park at **11 a.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2007 at Van Vorst Park, Montgomery Street and Jersey Avenue.**

The run was constructed by the Department of Public Works, Division of Buildings and Streets and Division of Parks and Forestry, and was designed by the Division of Architecture.

“We are extremely pleased with how this dog run came to life,” **Mayor Healy** said. “From concept to construction, the neighbors of Van Vorst Park have played a critical role in seeing their dream become a reality. By working closely with the city, dogs now have a designated place to recreate in the park, while at the same time keeping the grasses of the park protected.”

Work on the dog run began in November, after community members and city officials worked out the details for the run. Though initial bids for the dog run came in close to \$300,000, the city chose to do the work in-house and spent approximately \$80,000. The Friends of Van Vorst Park raised another \$24,000 in private contributions.

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“This dog run shows how the city can work with the community to achieve what both residents and taxpayers can agree upon,” **Director Yurchak** said. “This is an example of how to make positive improvements to a neighborhood, while practicing responsible spending on behalf of the City.”

In keeping with the historic design of the Van Vorst Park neighborhood, a wrought-iron fence was built to secure the dog run. The Department of Public Works will be installing two additional benches, and further enhancements will be handled by the Friends of Van Vorst Park.

The donations raised by Friends of Van Vorst Park were used to pay for part of the cost of the fence and for water fountains for the dogs and waste stations. State-of-the-art features like Zeolyte – crushed granite that helps reduce odors – were installed by the Department of Public Works.

The dog run, which is open during regular park hours, is separated into two areas – one for small dogs and one for large dogs. A list of rules and regulations regarding use of the dog run is posted on its fence.

For more information on the ribbon-cutting or the Van Vorst Park Dog Run, please **contact Jennifer Morrill at 201-547-4934./////**