

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Jersey City Redevelopment Agency Receives DEP Grant for Brownfield Development Area Designation DEP Grants up to \$5 Million a Year for the Grand Jersey Redevelopment Area***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** and other city and state officials will announce that the **City of Jersey City** through the **Jersey City Redevelopment Agency** has been awarded a grant from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Office of Brownfield Reuse during a press conference at **10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 20, 2007 at City Hall Council Chambers, 280 Grove Street.**

The grant makes the Grand Jersey Redevelopment area eligible for the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund and awards the city up to \$5 million per year for the environmental investigation and clean-up of the 20 acre site bounded by Grand Street, the New Jersey Turnpike and Jersey Avenue. ***The DEP total award could approach \$15 million over the 3-year period the Agency projects the clean up to take.***

“The DEP has made an excellent selection by investing in Jersey City, which for the past two decades has been undergoing a renaissance that has made it the economic engine of the state,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The remediation of the Grand Jersey Redevelopment Area, which is located near Liberty State Park, is pivotal to the success of the entire area.”

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The State, by designating the area a Brownfield Development Area, elevates the site to a high priority status and assigns the City a single case manager to oversee the entire area's clean up. Ultimately, the property will be redeveloped into open space, residential, retail and commercial space, serving as a gateway to Liberty State Park and returning ratables to the City.

“The grant award is highly competitive” said **Robert Antonicello**, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency. “It is extremely gratifying that the Agency has been rewarded for the enormous time and effort it has put into the project. The City stands to gain a tremendous land asset which has been dormant for years.”

The DEP award comes on the heels of the nearly \$1 million removal action conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency to remove hundreds of buried and abandoned drums from the site.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-686-7244.**

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