

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2009

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

Mayor Healy to Celebrate the 19th Annual Philippine-American Friendship Day Festival & Parade Festival Headliner Mig Ayesa and the 2009 Filipino Idol Competition

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and the **Division of Cultural Affairs** present the **19th Annual Philippine-American Friendship Day Parade & Festival on Sunday, June 28th, 2009**. This year’s festivities will start in Downtown, Jersey City at **8:00 a.m.** with a mass at St. Bridget’s Church, 370 Montgomery Street, and the **parade which will kick off at 10:45 a.m.** will make its way downtown to Exchange Place with the festival to follow.

“The Filipino community is filled with warm, gracious, and welcoming people,” said **Mayor Healy**. “This event not only showcases their rich culture and heritage, but also displays their hospitality. I encourage everyone to bring the whole family for a day of fun and festivities.”

Headlining the event is musician **Mig Ayesa**, who became a household name in the Philippines through his sounds of rock, funk and soul. Fil-Aussie Mig Ayesa has been showcasing his talents across the globe, performing with both rock bands and orchestras for enthusiastic crowds. He completed a wildly successful run in the Asia Pacific and took the stage in New Zealand, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand. MiG’s debut album, MiG, was released throughout the Asia Pacific, and his original She Loved earned its way on the MTV playlist.

Festival organizers ensured that there will be plenty of fun during this event. Festival-goers can expect fascinating floats, marching bands, health fair, music entertainment, foods galore, arts crafts, and of course, the **Grand Finals of Filipino Idol 2009**, which is open to young and talented Filipino-American youths between the ages of 16 and 30.

Nine finalists will compete for the title and winners are selected by a panel of judges during the festival will receive a first place prize of \$1000, second place \$700, third place \$500 and runners-up will receive \$100.

This event is sponsored by the City of Jersey City and the Division of Cultural Affairs in conjunction with the Philippine-American Friendship Committee, Inc. (PAFCOM), a community development organization that enriches the quality of life of families, especially those in need. PAFCOM promotes inclusiveness, opportunities, inter-culturalism, advocacy and intergenerationalism.

(more)

(2)

This event is one of the largest annual Philippine festivals in New Jersey as it symbolizes the friendship between America and the Philippines commemorating the liberation of the country from the Japanese occupation at the end of World War II.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information on the Philippine-American Friendship Day Parade & Festival, contact the division of Cultural Affairs at 201-547-6921.

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