

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2011

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Mayor Healy Appeals to the Generosity of Jersey City Residents to Assist in Relief Efforts for the Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Crisis in Japan

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy is encouraging Jersey City residents to donate to the ongoing relief efforts for the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis in Japan.

On March 11, 2011, a massive 9.0-magnitude earthquake occurred near the northeastern coast of Japan, churning up destructive tsunami waves that reached up to 33 feet and hit Japan just minutes after the earthquake, triggering evacuations and warnings across the Pacific Ocean. The earthquake and tsunami swept over cities and farmlands causing extensive and severe damage in Northeastern Japan, leaving thousands of people dead, injured or missing, and millions more affected by lack of electricity, water and transportation.

“As the crisis in Japan deepens, we know that the people of Japan desperately need our help,” said **Mayor Healy**. “These terrible tragedies are heartbreaking, and we need to let them know that we care, that they are in our thoughts and prayers, and I would ask you to donate to the crisis response efforts.”

Recorded as 9.0 on the Richter scale, it was the most powerful quake ever to hit the country in 140 years. As the nation struggles with its rescue efforts, Japan fears more lasting damage in the form of nuclear crisis, after explosions occurred at the nation's damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex.

Airborne radioactive effluents threaten Japan's food supply – the livestock, crops, as well as the possibility of contamination of the water supply presents catastrophic problems to the population. As a result, if farm animals and local agriculture were contaminated by the radiation, residents would endure increased levels of radiation exposure long after an explosion.

The World Bank reported earlier this week, that it could cost Japan as much as \$235 billion, which is perhaps the world's most costly catastrophes. The 1995 Kobe quake cost \$100 billion USD while Hurricane Katrina caused \$81 billion USD in damage and last summer's Pakistan floods \$43 billion (as reported by Reuters).

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Relief and volunteers are needed to help distribute relief items, provide medical needs and transportation, and help people displaced by the floods, earthquake and evacuations around nuclear power plants. However, the best and most effective means of assistance is economic support to disaster relief agencies who are experienced with these types of operations.

“With your help, we can send much needed aid to those affected by these tragedies and a message of support from the great people of Jersey City,” said **Mayor Healy**. “I strongly urge you to make a donation to these relief efforts through a local charity organization or the American Red Cross, an organization that is already on the ground assisting in Japan. Please consider a contribution toward this vitally important cause.”

Checks can be made payable to American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. In order for these donations to directly benefit the Japanese people, **all memo lines on checks must include: “Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami.”**

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