

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Mayor Healy to Cut the Ribbon on Monticello Avenue Following Completion of Streetscape Program \$1.3 Million in UEZ Funds Allocated to Façade Improvements

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** along with other city officials and community leaders will partake in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Monticello Avenue at 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2008, at 142 Monticello Avenue in front of Bottom Line Accounting.

“Urban renewal projects are key to building a stronger local economy which enhances our community,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The revitalization efforts focused on these commercial corridors create new jobs, businesses and investments for our neighborhoods that are just beginning to see the fruits of our economic renaissance.”

For the past several months, the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation, the Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ), the Neighborhood Preservation Program, the Main Street Designation and a collective organization of local community groups have come together in a unified effort to revitalize Monticello Avenue, which is an important commercial strip within the city.

A total of \$1,308,570 of UEZ funding has been allocated for cleaning and painting, new signage and awnings, window repair and replacement, wall repairs (including the repair/installation of decorative details, seasonal lighting and any other design features), security gates, building mounted street façade and lighting, storefront doors windows and frontage repairs and/or replacements, and sidewalk repairs and/or replacements.

Thirteen commercial buildings, between Astor Place and Brinkerhoff Street, have participated in this renovation project. These businesses were chosen to take part in the Block Front program because of their key location which within the Neighborhood Preservation Program and the Main Street designation area.

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“The financial support provided by UEZ to this type of neighborhood-based economic redevelopment is crucial to the viability of our neighborhoods,” said **Mayor Healy**.

Each commercial property that participated in the Block Front Program signed up through a partnership with the Jersey City UEZ and a Property Easement Grant which stipulates that each building owner must maintain these improvements for up to 5 years and have no previous liens on the property.

In 1986, the City of Jersey City entered into the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone program and designated areas within the city to be part of the zone areas. The UEZ funding assists qualified businesses and financially supports public improvements within these areas. The Monticello Avenue Block Front project has been a significant achievement for the UEZ Program and for Jersey City as a whole.

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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