

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



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

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MAYOR JERRAMIAH HEALY OF JERSEY CITY AND MAYOR CORY A. BOOKER OF NEWARK DENOUNCE PLANNED FEDERAL HOUSING CUTS

Newark, NJ – January 30, 2007 –Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy and Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker today denounced the Bush administration’s plan to cut the budget for Public Housing Operating subsidy from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and called on federal lawmakers to restore money to maintain housing stability for working families. The reductions will cost the cities’ housing authorities almost \$25 million this year.

According to the federal 2007 HUD budget, which supports public housing across the nation, only 76% of the required amount to operate public housing will be provided, forcing public housing authorities across the country to lay off staff, cut back maintenance, trim family self-sufficiency programs and reduce critical services including security. The proposed cuts will impact both family programs and those that assist seniors and disabled persons.

Newark Housing Authority, the largest in the state serving approximately 30,000 people, is expecting to receive \$38 million from HUD this year instead of the anticipated \$50 million, a 24% reduction.

Jersey City’s Housing Authority (JCHA), the second largest in the state, will also suffer a 24% budget cut from its normal \$15 million. Over 8,000 households are served by JCHA, and of that total, 1,700 are elderly or disabled persons, and 2,000 are children.

“We are calling on the federal government to restore 100% funding under the new formula being used to calculate operating budgets,” said Mayor Healy. “Our affordable housing resources cannot continue to be diminished. These continued cuts will not only put some of our most needy citizens out on the streets, but will also force a tremendous decrease in services to those who remain under the protective umbrella of the Jersey City Housing Authority.”

“The residents of Newark’s public housing, like those in all of our region’s cities, are among those most at risk from these cuts,” said Mayor Booker. “These reductions are eliminating vital services that are needed to provide residents with safe and secure homes. Newark has already lost 300 hundred good jobs due to these funding cuts. It is appalling that the administration should sacrifice the neediest and most dependent residents and workers of our cities upon the altar of fiscal stability. These planned cuts are neither fair nor just.”

Ten U.S. Senators on the Senate Banking Committee have already signed a joint letter to President Bush urging full funding in the President’s FY2008 budget submission. Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey is among the senators who signed the letter.

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Contact: Lupé Todd – (862) 754-2409 (for Mayor Booker)
Maria Pignataro (917) 992-4720 (for Mayor Healy)