



CITY OF  
**JERSEY CITY**  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Division of Cultural Affairs



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Mayor Healy to Celebrate the 163<sup>rd</sup>  
Anniversary of Dominican Independence  
Merengue Sensation Raul Acosta to be Honored at City Event***

JERSEY CITY -- Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy will commemorate the 163<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Dominican Republic's independence during a flag raising and celebration from **10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at City Hall, 280 Grove Street.**

The event, which is sponsored by the Mayor's Office, the Municipal Council and the Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Cultural Affairs, will honor notable Dominicans in the arts and government.

The city will honor **Raul Acosta of Oro Solido**, an international merengue star who once lived in Jersey City and attended the city's public school system. Throughout his career and many successes, Acosta always gave back to the community.

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“It is truly an honor to have Mr. Acosta present at our Dominican Independence celebration,” **Mayor Healy** said. “This man is a role model for our children. He lived in Jersey City and was educated here and has become an international merengue superstar.”

The City will also honor **Claribel Azcona-Barber**, an aide to Gov. Jon Corzine. Azcona-Barber works in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and serves as a liaison between the Governor and the elected officials of five counties, including Hudson County.

In addition to Acosta and Azcona-Barber, Mayor Healy will recognize award-winning documentary filmmaker, Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez. Ramirez’s most notable work, which gained her several human rights awards, was a powerful documentary on the subversive world of street children in the Dominican Republic.

At the celebration, a 40-foot Dominican flag will be on display in the City Council Chambers. Students from six Jersey City public schools will recite poems and make cultural presentations in honor of the Dominican Republic. Schools participating in the event are PS 3, PS 5, PS 9, PS 22, PS 23 and PS 34.

For more information on the event, please contact the **Division of Cultural Affairs at 201-547-6921** or **Greg Malave, in the City Council Office at 201-547-5458.**///