

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
March 23, 2011

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

Mayor Healy Appeals to the Generosity of Jersey City Residents to Assist in Relief Efforts for Pakistan

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy encourages Jersey City residents help with the ongoing relief efforts for the victims of the 2010 Pakistan floods, which has been reported to have directly affected about 20 million people, mostly by destruction of property, livelihood and infrastructure, with a death toll of close to 2,000.

The 2010 Pakistan floods began in late July 2010, resulting from heavy monsoon rains in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan regions of Pakistan and affected the Indus River basin. Approximately one-fifth of Pakistan's total land area was underwater, approximately 307,374 sq. miles.

“Not only has the Pakistani economy been impacted by extensive damage to infrastructure and crops, but the World Health Organization reported that ten million people were forced to drink unsafe water, and thousands of villages have been washed away leaving millions of people homeless,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Floods in Pakistan have devastated millions of communities in the northwest regions of the country, leveling homes and leaving families with nowhere to go, and left seven million in need of emergency assistance, including medical attention, food and shelter.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had initially asked for \$460 million for emergency relief, noting that the flood was the worst disaster he had ever seen. As of August 15, 2010, only 20% of the relief funds requested had been received and the country of Pakistan is still in dire need of assistance.

In response to the disaster, a coalition of Jersey City organizations and community activists launched an appeal for donations needed to help Pakistanis. The Association of Pakistani Americans for Community Organization, Inc. (APACO), a local Jersey City organization, has been actively engaged in helping meet the needs of this crisis. APACO reports that hundreds of thousands of people are in need of shelter, clothing, food, and other basic needs.

The best and most effective means of assistance is economic support to disaster relief agencies who are experienced with these types of operations.

(more)

(2)

“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. 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 Pakistani people, all memo lines on checks must include: **“Pakistan Monsoon Flood Disaster Relief.”**

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