

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR HEALY, CITY COUNCIL & SENATOR CUNNINGHAM TO KICK OFF REFURBISHMENT OF CITY'S NEWEST RECREATIONAL & CULTURAL CENTER AT SITE OF FORMER JERSEY CITY YMCA

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy**, members of the Municipal Council, State Senator Sandra Cunningham, and a host of business and community leaders will hold a formal kickoff ceremony at **10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2013** for the major renovation of what will be the city's newest recreational facility, known as the 654 Project.

The multi-million dollar project, located at the site of the former YMCA building at 654 Bergen Avenue, will provide many new recreational, cultural and health & wellness programs for the entire city.

“For far too long this facility has been underutilized, but we are developing plans and determining funding sources to renovate the building and to create a new, expanded recreational and cultural facility,” said **Mayor Healy**. “When completed, this will be a state-of-the-art facility that will serve the needs of thousands of city residents.”

The new facility will offer a wide range of recreational programs for men, women and children, including: basketball, soccer, volleyball, swimming, gymnastics, weight training and track & field. It will also offer numerous cultural programs, from yoga and dance classes to reading programs for children, photography classes, musical concerts and a variety of arts classes.

It will also feature an in-house health clinic with free health screenings for eligible patients, nutrition classes and special programs for senior citizens.

The 654 Bergen Avenue site was the home of the Jersey City YMCA until 1996, when the city assumed management of the building. In 1999, the building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

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“I want to thank all those who have worked so hard to bring today’s event to fruition, including Senator Cunningham,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Working together, we can make this new facility a showplace for Jersey City and an invaluable asset to our community for people of all ages.”

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-369-0699.///