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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Mayor Fulop & Ward A Councilwoman Ridley Announce Initiative to Create New Recreation Centers Citywide, Establishing One Permanent Community Center in Each Ward

City Council Set to Approve Ordinance Initiating Architectural Designs for Constructing New Facilities in Bayside Park (Ward A), Powerhouse Arts District (Ward E), and Gut Rehabilitation of Former Connors Center (Ward D) to Start

JERSEY CITY, NJ – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and Councilwoman Denise Ridley are moving plans forward on a citywide initiative long emphasized by the Ward A councilwoman to establish permanent community-focused recreation centers in all six wards. During the upcoming **November 12** meeting, the City Council is set to vote on an ordinance to kickstart the design phase by designating a \$467,000 contract to FC3 Architects.

The initial phase will include designing a new facility at **Bayside Park** and gutting the former **Joseph Connors Senior Center** to modernize it and align it with youth recreation in Jersey City Heights. The third location will complete construction of the new **Boiler Building in the Powerhouse Arts District** for downtown Jersey City. Once the ordinance is approved, the first eight public workshops will commence in January 2025 with the **Department of Infrastructure**.

“We have made remarkable progress over the past year with the opening of a new senior center, a library branch, the completion of Reservoir 3, and the launch of our Public Safety De-Escalation Center. Building on our momentum, we are taking the next step to ensure that each ward has a dedicated space for community-focused centers in all six wards, fostering stronger connections and collaboration throughout Jersey City,” emphasized **Mayor Fulop**.

Adopted in early 2022, the Jersey City [Master Plan](#) calls for expanding accessible recreation and community facilities. Each new center will be managed through a collaborative partnership between the **Jersey City Department of Recreation and Youth Development** and the **Jersey City Free Public**

Library to ensure the facilities cater to our diverse community’s evolving needs, from sports and fitness to educational and cultural programming.

Councilwoman Ridley has pushed for the expansion of Recreation Centers citywide since her first election. “At a recent City Council meeting, I told residents I heard their asks for additional resources throughout the city and committed to doing more to make those asks a reality. This is the first step. Working with the Mayor and administration, we were able to get the ball rolling quickly. Since taking office, I’ve had one goal: to do as much as I can to make Jersey City better for its residents.”

All media inquiries should be directed to Kim Wallace-Scalcione at KScalcione@jcnj.org.