

## Election time again in Jersey City

Written by Manuel Caballero  
Friday, 19 May 2017 07:15

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**The Fil-Am meeting attendees.**



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It's election time again on Nov. 7, 2017 in Jersey City, N.J., home to some 15,000 Filipinos.

The city's popular and well-liked mayor, Steven Fulop, who entertained the thought of running for New Jersey governor last year, changed his mind and decided to seek re-election in what local political observers say would be an easy "sailing" for the incumbent city executive.

Fil-Am City Council President and Councilman-at-Large Rolando Lavarro, Jr., who entertained the thought of running for mayor had Fulop decided to run for governor, is also running for re-election with Team Fulop 2017.

The popularity of Mayor Fulop not only with Filipinos but with the cross section of the city's population was emphasized by *Balik* Jersey City resident Flor Medel Reyes during a recent meeting when she aptly said, "I came back to Jersey City from Arizona because of the progress and development that happened and are happening under Mayor Fulop."

In past Jersey City elections we have observed, since the time of former Mayor Bret Schundler, the candidate(s) who were supported by Filipinos emerged as winners.

By sheer number, a united Filipino vote in the city could make a candidate win.

There could be a couple of Filipinos who might not go along with their fellow Filipinos because of unfulfilled personal favors sought.

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### **Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop speaks with Council President Rolando Lavarro, Jr.**

However, it is predicted that like in the 2013 elections, Fil-Ams will unite behind and support Lavarro and Team Fulop.

In a well-attended meeting of members and leaders of the Filipino-American community in a Jersey City Filipino restaurant on May 15, City Council President Lavarro introduced some of the candidates of the formidable Team Fulop led by the mayoral bet.

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The Democratic Party candidates in the June Primary elections for state assembly seats in the area spoke in the same political gathering.

Mayor Fulop asked for a continuing partnership with the large Filipino community in Jersey City.

He said that Filipinos are valued highly in the city.

He cited the following:

**•During the 2013 elections when he first ran for mayor, the first candidate listed in Team Fulop 2013 was a Filipino, Rolando Lavarro, Jr.**

**•The first Filipino chief municipal judge appointed in Jersey City happened during the early days of his term as mayor in 2013.**

**•In the City Council of Jersey City, Lavarro was elected twice as president by his peers with Mayor Fulop's unwavering support.**

Lavarro's transparent and effective leadership in the city's legislative branch of government and his being able to unite the Fil-Ams regained the city populace trust on Filipinos after unpleasant stories about a few *Pinoys* years prior to the 2013 elections.

We consider the above as the biggest achievement of Mr. Lavarro in relation to the Filipinos in Jersey City.

His honesty as public servant is admirable.

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**JC Mayor Steven Fulop.**

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Happy Birthday to Council President Ricardo J. Torres! [www.nj.com](http://www.nj.com) Photo by Manuel Caballero