

## **7 Side With Troy**

Fulop notes all seven ran with Healy, rips chief anew

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Jersey City Police Chief Robert Troy is doing a bang-up job in eyes of seven of the nine City Council members - despite 39 murders last year, the most since 1982.

The Troy backers went public with their "wholehearted support" for the police chief of 15 months at the council's Wednesday night meeting, the same day Ward E Councilman Steven Fulop called for Troy to step down.

Reading from a letter signed by every council member except Fulop and Ward F Councilwoman Viola Richardson, Ward D Councilman William Gaughan said: "Realizing the complexity of the duties of the chief of police, (we) wish to express our wholehearted support for Chief Robert Troy.

"We realize crime does not exist in a vacuum. We further understand there are societal and economic factors which impact crime totals."

In front of roughly 15 attendees at the meeting - many of whom told their own tales of brushes with gunfire and dope dealers - Fulop noted that those who signed the letter all ran on Mayor Jerramiah Healy's ticket in May.

"I resent that, Steve," Ward A Councilman Michael Sottolano shot back. "I'm independent."

Fulop stuck to his guns, saying serious crime in the city has been trending upwards, a fact police acknowledged in a budget hearing held earlier this month.

"At some point someone has to be accountable," Fulop said. "Numbers don't lie."

In a three-page letter submitted to The Jersey Journal, Troy wrote that Fulop's words "not only undermine the public's confidence in the Police Department, but also negatively affect the morale of the men and women who comprise the Jersey City Police Department."

Noting that the department has hired 150 new officers, Troy - quoting a newspaper article - attributed a spike in violent crimes to a "confluence of disturbing trends in New Jersey and other states," namely the rise of gangs and gun violence.

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