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Jersey City Council to Vote on Rewrite of Obscenity Law ***The Proposed Ordinance Calls for Progressive and Contemporary Changes to an Outdated Law***

JERSEY CITY – On Wednesday, the **Jersey City Council** will vote on an ordinance that repeals and replaces the chapter of the Municipal Code that deals with the distribution and exhibition of obscene materials. The ‘Obscenity Law’ was put in place in 1982 in an effort to prevent strip clubs and similar establishments from operating within the City. Earlier this year, a local performer was barred from putting on a burlesque-style show at a local bar because the performance fell within the previously outdated definition of ‘obscene’, prompting Mayor Fulop, councilmembers, and the City’s Law Department to rewrite the law entirely.

“As it was previously written, the definitions of obscenity within the municipal code proved to be outdated, and ended up putting unfair restrictions on the expression of our artists and performers whose work is far from what would typically be labeled ‘obscene’,” said Mayor Fulop. “During the past few weeks, we have worked our team and community members on updating this law to reflect contemporary community standards and prevent future confusion.”

In addition, the ordinance will streamline the ‘Obscenity Law’, while clarifying the definitions, removing any reference to sexual devices, and making all references to the human anatomy gender-neutral.

"The new ordinance brings Jersey City's obscenity laws into the 21st century. It eliminates outdated restrictions on speech. It eliminates outdated intrusions into people's private lives. With council support, we'll pass a new, gender-neutral law that respects speech and increases freedom," said Ward E Councilman James Solomon.

The decision to review the law came out of a incident that occurred in April which barred performer Lillian Bustle from putting on a burlesque-style show at a Downtown bar. Since the incident occurred, Ms. Bustle has been involved in the rewrite of the law, and has advocated for the promotion of free artistic-expression.

“The new laws are very simple and very progressive. I have seen a draft of the proposed legislation, and it looks like it will treat our citizens fairly and equally. I'm so proud of James Solomon, Sarah Ligon, and their team for their research and care with this matter, and I think the change will open a new chapter of artistic and personal freedom for the people of Jersey City! I hope the City Council feels the same way,” said Lillian Bustle, performer.

The City Council is expected to vote on this ordinance during the Council Meeting on Wednesday, May 23rd.

All media inquiries should be directed to Hannah Peterson at HPeterson@jcnj.org or 732-881-1209.