



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATEMENT OF GLOBAL GATEWAY ALLIANCE BOARD MEMBERS
CALLING FOR FAST TRACKING LAGUARDIA CENTRAL TERMINAL BUILDING**

“Global Gateway Alliance applauds the Port Authority’s efforts to redevelop LaGuardia’s Central Terminal Building, and urges the agency to fast track the project to cut years off the completion schedule.

“With just four groups remaining in the competition to develop the new CTB, we are hopeful that New Yorkers and visitors alike are closer than ever to replacing an almost half-century-old relic that is far beyond its passenger capacity with a sleek, modern, efficient 21st Century terminal that is a showcase for design and engineering prowess.

“For too long, the CTB has stood as the symbol of decay at New York City area airports, negatively impacting the reputation of all our region’s airports. Surveys from *Travel and Leisure* to *Zagat* have ranked LaGuardia as the worst airport in the country, citing the CTB as a primary reason. *Zagat* went so far as to say ‘the best thing to do is to knock it down and start over.’

“Fortunately, the Port Authority’s \$3.6 billion public-private partnership to rebuild the CTB does exactly that.

“With world class designers, architects, engineers, and funders competing to build it, the project should set the standard for US airport redevelopment. By doing so, it will stand as proof positive that public-private partnerships can not only protect, but advance public infrastructure for the benefit of passengers, airlines, and our economy. Just as critically, the project will add thousands of jobs to the regional economy.

“We recognize that completing such an ambitious project while continuing to operate an airport serving 25 million passengers is no easy task. But we urge you to take any available actions to shave years off the timeline for completion of the project. For far too long, LGA has ranked among the worst airports in the country. After more than a decade of talk, the public-private structure to replace the CTB is the only way to move forward rapidly to change that perception.

“We know the Port Authority’s commitment to the project means it will not allow the status quo to persist. Instead, we are confident that the agency is on its way to matching and surpassing the efforts of competitors around the country and the world. The sooner we have this new world class terminal, the better. ”

Joe Sitt

Chairman, GGA
CEO, Thor Equities

Mitchell Moss

Board Member, GGA
Director, NYU Rudin Center for
Transportation Policy & Management

Jennifer Hensley

Board Member, GGA
Executive Director, Association for a Better NY

Alvin Trenk

Board Member, GGA
Chairman & CEO Air Pegasus Group

Stephen Sigmund

Executive Director
Global Gateway Alliance

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ABOUT GGA

Global Gateway Alliance (GGA), was established to address the major challenges facing the metropolitan region’s airports and related infrastructure that, if left unaddressed, will serve as a major impediment to the long-term growth of New York City and surrounding areas. By harnessing the expertise of leaders in business, government, academia, labor and other sectors, we seek to tackle these challenges head-on and serve as the leading advocate in an effort to improve our airports and facilitate the continued growth of the region. For more information regarding the Global Gateway Alliance, please visit the website at www.globalgatewayalliance.org, or email info@globalgatewayalliance.org. Follow GGA on Twitter @GGA_NYNJ and ‘Like’ the organization on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/UsqxGw>.

GGA’s board of directors includes: **Joe Sitt** (Chairman), CEO, Thor Equities, **Kathryn Wylde**, President of the Partnership for New York City; **Joseph Spinnato**, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; **William Rudin**, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; **Stuart Appelbaum**, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; **Dan Glickman** former Congressman and U.S. Agriculture Secretary; **Jared Kushner**, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; **Alvin S. Trenk**, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; **Mitchell Moss**, Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University; **Peter Ward**, President of the Hotel Trades Council on New York, and **David Hopkins**, Senior Director of Aviation at the New York City Economic Development Corporation.