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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Over 600 Political, Business, and Civic Leaders Focus on the Harbor  
at the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance  
2012 Waterfront Conference**

**City of New York Heralds *Waterfront Action Agenda* Progress in New Report**

**14 Congressional Offices, Constituents Plan for  
Waterfront Improvements in their Districts**

New York, NY: On May 18 and 19, New York City Deputy Mayors Robert K. Steel and Caswell F. Holloway joined over 600 political, business, and civic leaders at the [Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance's](#) (MWA's) [Waterfront Conference 2012](#) to assess the New York – New Jersey region's current surge of waterfront revitalization and strategize ways to continue this historic economic and environmental transformation.

The conference featured the release of New York City's *Waterfront Action Agenda Progress Report*, measuring one year's advancement on the City's *Comprehensive Waterfront Plan*.

“We have made huge strides in re-connecting communities to the waterfront—one of our City's most invaluable assets,” said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. “We see our waterfront and waterways as New York City's sixth borough. Thoughtful planning, community discussion and conferences like this are needed to make sure our waterfront revitalization proceeds and succeeds.”

Another highlight of the conference was the New York-New Jersey Harbor Coalition's *Waterfront Project Workshop*, where bi-state, bi-partisan representatives of 14 New York and New Jersey Congressional offices engaged in a lively exchange with constituents about specific waterfront sites and overall waterfront visions for their districts.

“The MWA Waterfront Conference is a great opportunity for Harbor stakeholders to come together as a team to discuss the success we have achieved while also laying the groundwork for future projects and continued success in the New York – New Jersey Harbor,” said Colonel John R. Boulé II, commander of the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“MWA’s waterfront conferences have played a leading role in fostering progressive new waterfront plans like New York City’s *Comprehensive Waterfront Plan* and *Waterfront Action Agenda*,” said Roland Lewis, President and CEO of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. “This year’s exemplary gathering of business, government, and civic leaders is focused on the critical step of implementation, ensuring these initiatives are used to create a waterfront that is both an environmental engine and an invaluable economic resource.”

The conference’s 17 panels and 2 narrated boat tours explored a wide range of complex waterfront issues including: green port facilities, ferries, waterfront access and equity, climate change, water quality, and more.

Participants included:

- Colonel John R. Boulé II, New York District Commander US Army Corps of Engineers
- The Honorable Dawn Zimmer, Mayor of Hoboken
- Caswell F. Holloway IV, New York City Deputy Mayor for Operations
- Robert K. Steel, New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development
- Commissioner Maria Burks, National Parks of New York Harbor
- Mitch Butler, Sr. Principal, Natural Resources Results
- Rear Admiral Wendi B. Carpenter, USN, President, SUNY Maritime College
- Robert Cotter, PP, AICP, Director of City Planning, Jersey City
- Christopher J. Daggett, Ed.D., former EPA administrator and President and CEO Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
- Helena Durst, Co-Vice President, The Durst Organization
- Andrew Genn, Vice President, New York City Economic Development Corporation
- Arthur E. Imperatore, Jr., President, New York Waterway
- Kenneth T. Jackson, Ph.D., Jacques Barzun Professor in History and the Social Sciences at Columbia University
- Lisa Jackson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (greeting via video)
- Joshua Laird, Assistant Commissioner for Parks & Parklands, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
- The Honorable Brad Lander, New York City Council Member - District 39
- Venetia Lannon, Regional Director, Region 2 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Admiral Rick Larrabee, Director of the Port Commerce Department of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Tony MacDonald, Director, Urban Coast Institute - Monmouth University
- Terry MacRae, CEO of Hornblower Cruises and Events
- Michael Marrella, Director of the Waterfront and Open Space Planning Division, New York City Department of City Planning
- Karen Phillips, New York City Regional Director, New York States Park Department
- Lisa Robb, Executive Director, New York State Council on the Arts
- Cynthia E. Rosenzweig, Ph.D, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Columbia University Earth Institute (greeting via video)
- Jared Snyder, Assistant Commissioner for Air Resources, Climate Change and Energy, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- The Honorable Daniel L. Squadron, New York State Senator - 25th Senate District

- Commander Linda A. Sturgis, United States Coast Guard
- Carter Strickland, J.D., Commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- Christopher O. Ward, M.T.S., former Executive Director of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Charles Warren, Partner, Kramer Levin Naftalis and Frankel LLP
- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE

Finally, the event celebrated 40 years of the *Clean Water Act* and its role in the revitalization of the NY/NJ Harbor.

Waterfront Conference 2012 was held at the banks of the Hudson River at Chelsea Piers and Pier 66 Maritime.

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### Waterfront Conference 2012 Sponsors



### About the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance (<http://www.waterfrontalliance.org>)

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance works to transform the New York and New Jersey harbor and waterways to make them clean and accessible, a vibrant place to play, learn and work, with great parks, great jobs and great transportation for all.

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