The Ernesto L. Butcher EOC Is Dedicated

The Port Authority this week dedicated its Emergency Operations Center to its longtime Chief Operating Officer and 41-year career public servant, the late Ernesto L. Butcher. A plaque to honor his memory was placed at the EOC at the PA Technical Center and another in the Board Room at 4 World Trade Center.

During the December 8 ceremony, Chairman John Degnan lauded Mr. Butcher’s service to the agency, including his efforts to rally his colleagues and reopen key transportation facilities following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Mr. Butcher died in May, two years after retiring from the PA.

Chairman Degnan said, “Today’s dedication will ensure that Ernesto Butcher is forever remembered as one of the most dedicated, exemplary public servants in the Port Authority’s storied history. His mastery of Port Authority operations was second to none, but perhaps more remarkable was his ability to lead with extraordinary poise and grace under extremely trying and difficult circumstances. He will be missed, but his legacy will live on.”

Vice Chairman Scott Rechler said, “Ernesto truly embodied the spirit and determination of the thousands of men and women who work day in and day out to operate our facilities and keep this region moving. Today’s dedication will ensure that Ernesto’s spirit and determination will never be forgotten.”

Mr. Butcher’s widow, Kristen Peck Butcher, spoke in acknowledgement of the memorial to her husband, and one of his... Continued on page 5

CSO to Retire

Joe Dunne – the Port Authority’s first Chief Security Officer who formed its first centralized Security Department to enhance public safety at the agency’s transportation facilities – will retire effective January 9.

Board Authorizes 2015 Budget

The Board of Commissioners this week adopted a fiscally responsible $2.9 billion operating budget and a $3.6 billion capital budget that funds critical infrastructure at the agency’s trade and transportation facilities. Including debt service, the 2015 budget totals $7.8 billion.

The operating budget continues to hold expense growth at 1.8 percent – below the rate of inflation – and reflects continued fiscal discipline while allowing for increased investments in several critical areas, including facility maintenance and initiatives to enhance the competitiveness of PA facilities.

Port Cargo Volume On Record Pace

The Port of New York and New Jersey set a new record for monthly cargo volume in October, surpassing the previous monthly record of 306,051 shipping containers handled in August 2013. The October volume of 306,805 containers also keeps the port on pace for a record-breaking year in 2014.

The increase was driven by a hike in import loaded containers, up 1 percent over the previous best month on record.

Port Commerce Director Richard Larrabee said, “While the improved economic conditions across the country play a large part in our success story, we’re equally pleased that the entire... Continued on page 4

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**PATH Weekend Service To Resume**

PATH weekend service on the Newark-to-World Trade Center line will resume with the reopening of the WTC and Exchange Place stations starting December 20-21, following nearly a year of intensive cleanup and work to install new computerized signals.

Since February, about 280,000 square feet of metal tunnel surfaces and equipment were power washed of salt residue left by Superstorm Sandy floodwaters, corroded metal was replaced, and thousands of feet of new cables were placed for the signal system.

PATH Director/General Manager Stephen Kingsberry said, “These repairs and upgrades, while tremendously inconvenient for our riders, are absolutely vital to a state of good repair, undoing the corrosive damage from Sandy, and making critical safety upgrades to the PATH system.”

Mr. Kingsberry praised the dedication and sacrifice of PATH employees and consultants, who put in long hours since last winter helping to rebuild the rail system.

The PA, like other mass-transit systems around the nation, is working to meet a federal mandate to install a Positive Train Control system to help reduce human or mechanical errors and provide added safety. PTC is an enhanced signal technology that automatically applies a train’s brakes if an accident appears likely.

Floodwaters in Sandy’s aftermath destroyed much of the substantial work PATH had completed on the PTC system, requiring replacement of those components and significantly setting back the agency’s schedule and budget. The Federal Transit Administration helped the Port Authority recoup those financial losses.

More work remains and is expected to be done during additional weekend outages in the second half of 2015 on the Journal Square-33rd-Street-via-Hoboken line, along with completion of remaining work on the Newark-WTC line. Visit www.panynj.gov/press-room to read more.

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**Prince and Duchess Visit the WTC**

Britain’s Prince William and his wife, Catherine, laid flowers this week at the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center.

Accompanied by Chairman John Degnan, Deputy Chief of Capital Planning/WTC Construction Director Steven Plate, WTC Redevelopment’s Glenn Guzi, and Memorial & Museum President and CEO Joe Daniels, the couple crossed Memorial Plaza in pouring rain and wind and laid a bouquet at one of the two reflecting pools built in the footprints of the twin towers. Sixty-seven British citizens were killed at the site on 9/11, the most of any foreign country.

After paying their respects at the southern pool, they spent half an hour viewing the exhibits at the 9/11 Museum, as well as its Memorial Hall, with its wall of blue tiles representing all the 9/11 victims and those who died in the 1993 bombing. In the nearby “In Memoriam” exhibit, where visitors can leave a message or signature with a stylus on an electronic tablet, both signed, writing “Catherine” and “William” in script.

Before leaving, the Duke and Duchess also visited One WTC, where they admired its soaring lobby.

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**Board Honors Bob Sudman**

The Port Authority Board of Commissioners paid tribute on Wednesday to Audit Director Robert Sudman in recognition of his more than 35 years of “dedicated and distinguished service” to the Port Authority.

“We congratulate Bob Sudman on his upcoming retirement, the Board tribute said. “Since joining the Port Authority in July 1979, Bob has been a strong leader and consummate professional, having served in numerous financial positions throughout his career, including Deputy and Acting Comptroller, prior to being appointed Director of the Audit Department in November 2010. Bob leads by example, and he holds himself and his staff to the highest standards of excellence in the management of the agency’s audit function. As Director of Audit, he has improved the effectiveness of internal controls to limit agency risk and protect agency assets. Bob’s friendly demeanor, which enables him to motivate those around him, will truly be missed. It is with sincere gratitude that we recognize and honor Bob Sudman today for his 35 years of dedicated public service to this agency and the region it serves.”
JFK TAS Thanks Its Volunteers

FK's Travelers Aid Services hosted its Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on December 4 at Lumix Restaurant in Lynbrook, where nearly all of the 100 volunteers attended.

TAS Program Manager Jane Mrosko performed her now-traditional feat of announcing the names of each and every attendee, including (from left) TAS International President Dave Asselin, JFK Airport Operations Manager April Gasparrì, and JFK Landside Services Manager Sean Porter.

Travelers Aid volunteers help passengers who have limited or no funds, become separated from family or friends, or have immigration issues or language barriers.

Port Cargo Volume On Record Pace

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The port community is now working together to move more cargo more quickly and efficiently. We will continue to work with all of our port stakeholders to ensure our long-term success in attracting and retaining international shippers to our port facilities.”

Cargo shipments on the port’s ExpressRail system also continued to grow, with 42,950 containers transported by rail, up 14.2 percent from October 2013. More than 14 percent of the total port traffic is now transported by rail.

Visit www.panynj.gov/press-room to read more.

PA Officers Get the Message Out

Port Authority Police Officers Nancy Farrell and Danny Perez recorded security awareness radio spots in English and Spanish at a recording studio in Manhattan last month. The spots are running on various stations through January 1.

The script: “This is Officer Nancy Farrell of the Port Authority Police Department asking you not to let your guard down this holiday season. Whether you’re riding PATH, traveling through a terminal, crossing the Hudson, or catching a plane, here are some safety tips: Keep your wallet in an inside coat pocket and never leave your bags unattended. And remember to scan your surroundings. If you see anything suspicious, tell a Port Authority Police Officer or call 800 828-7273. Thank you, and happy holidays.”

Funding for the ads was provided by grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

PATH Has a Winner

Jersey City eighth grader Tiffany Fahmy was named the winner of PATH’s annual Holiday Poster Contest on Tuesday for her artwork depicting flags of the world on a holiday ornament. The P.S. 11 student’s poster will be installed and displayed in PATH stations and on rail cars throughout the holiday season.

D’Kyri Kelly of P.S. 11 was named the winner in the grade 3-5 category and Felix Tinio of P.S. 37 won in the category for students in grades K-2.

PATH Director/General Manager Stephen Kingsberry said, “The dedication and talent exhibited by all the students who participated is simply amazing. This contest not only showcases the PATH system and the importance it plays in the lives of so many of these students’ parents, but also the creative abilities of our students in developing ideas and putting them on paper.”

The PATH Holiday Poster Contest began 25 years ago, featuring the artwork of local students from 27 Jersey City primary schools. This year, prizes were awarded in three grade categories: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.

Each of the winners received four tickets to the “Radio City Christmas Spectacular” and complimentary 10-trip PATH SmartLink cards to get the winners and their families to and from the show. Each also received a $50 American Express gift card and art supplies from the Jersey City Visual and Performing Arts Department and Jersey City Board of Education.

More than 500 holiday posters were entered in the contest.
The Port Authority reopened the full length of the 11,817-foot Runway 9-27 at Stewart International Airport this week after it was completely repaved as part of a $100 million capital improvement project – the largest capital project in SWF’s history. Runway 16-34 also was repaved.

With the runway work complete and efforts ongoing to add a federal inspection services area in the terminal, SWF is poised to handle future international commercial flights.

Aviation Director Thomas Bosco said, “As we continue to work aggressively to increase air service at Stewart, it’s important that we make the necessary infrastructure investments to maintain a modern, efficient airport that’s attractive not only to our customers, but also to potential new carriers. I applaud everyone who worked for months to overhaul these two runways – from planning and design through the safe and successful construction of nearly three and a half miles of runways.”

The airfield improvements also will support Governor Andrew Cuomo’s initiative to increase the airport’s cargo capacity. Earlier this month, the Governor announced that the PA will produce a plan in conjunction with Empire State Development to design a regional cargo distribution hub at SWF. The PA has made dozens of improvements to the airport since taking control in 2007. More than half of the construction contracts and more than 75 percent of the contract dollars have gone to local firms. Visit www.panynj.gov/press-room to read more.

LGA GM Speaks to ‘Labor Source’

At the group’s invitation, LaGuardia Airport General Manager Lysa Scully (front, center) addressed the Women in Aviation Club of York College on December 3, giving them an overview of the future of LGA and insights on how they might use their talents to obtain a job and make a difference for airport customers. The students are enrolled in York’s Aviation Management degree program.

“This diverse and ambitious group of students serves as a labor source for the New York airports for entry-level aviation positions,” Ms. Scully said. “It was a pleasure to interact with them.”

SWF Runway Reopens

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The PA & You

Applications are being accepted for the Port Authority’s 2015 Summer Internship Program. The deadline to apply is February 2. Students must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program for fall 2015. Internships are available in various departments, including Audit, Aviation, Comptroller’s, Government & Community Affairs, Engineering/Architecture, Human Resources, PATH, Port Commerce, Real Estate, Technology, and Tunnel, Bridges & Terminals. To apply, visit www.jointheportauthority.com.

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Mr. Dunne, a 32-year veteran of the NYPD, will be succeeded by First Deputy Chief Security Officer Thomas Belfiore, who joined the Port Authority in 2012 following a distinguished career in law enforcement and several senior security management roles. Mr. Belfiore served for 20 years with the NYPD, retiring with the rank of Deputy Chief before moving on to a variety of public- and private-sector security positions, including Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety.

Chief Dunne rose through the ranks at NYPD from beat officer to Chief of Department, to First Deputy Police Commissioner, the senior advisor to the Police Commissioner. After retiring from the NYPD in January 2002, he joined UBS Wealth Management as a Managing Director heading security services in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. He left UBS in 2009 and began consulting for state and local governments on security matters.

Chairman John Degnan said, “From the time he was a rookie patrolman, Joe Dunne has never shied away from tough tasks and he has excelled at everything he’s done, including his remarkable service in establishing the agency’s Chief Security Office. His exemplary leadership will have a lasting impact on the safety and security of everyone who relies on our facilities.” Vice Chairman Scott Rechler said, “As the first Chief Security Officer, Chief Dunne ushered into this organization a world-class security program that prioritizes the protection of the agency’s employees, customers, the public and the vital transportation assets that we operate. This commitment to excellence will continue under the leadership of our new CSO, Tom Belfiore. Joe Dunne’s legacy will not be forgotten, and we wish him well in his retirement.”

Executive Director Pat Foye said, “Chief Dunne is a world-class law enforcement professional whose

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**CSO to Retire**

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dedication and leadership helped this agency better manage its critical security responsibilities for the millions of people who use its airports, seaports, bridges, tunnels and PATH system. As a result of Joe’s leadership, the people of this region are safer today. We also are extremely pleased that Tom has agreed to take on the chief security role and provide a seamless transition and continue to build upon the progress we have made.”

Deputy Executive Director Deb Gramiccioni said, “Chief Dunne took on an enormous challenge to streamline agency security procedures and protocols, and I applaud him for the great job he has done during the past two years. Joe’s efforts strengthened and unified our security operations, and I look forward to working with Tom to continue the work that we’ve begun.”

Mr. Dunne said, “I am extremely grateful to the PA leadership for allowing me to take on one of the most gratifying jobs in my law enforcement career. After nearly 45 years of serving in law enforcement and in public and private security roles, it’s time for me to move on to what’s most important to me — my family and my beloved grandchildren. I wish Tom the best of luck in continuing the efforts we began together.”

At its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the Board presented Chief Dunne with a tribute. It said, “It is with great appreciation that we applaud Chief Dunne, as he leaves Port Authority service, and thank him for his contribution to the safety and security of all Port Authority facilities, the traveling public and the region at large.”

**Board Authorizes 2015 Budget**

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The capital budget will help build and maintain critical infrastructure at the airports, tunnels, bridges, bus terminals, marine terminals, and PATH, and move toward completion of the World Trade Center. Of the total capital budget, $1 billion is dedicated specifically for investment in the interstate transportation system. In addition, $779 million is dedicated to airport terminal development, runway and taxiway improvements, and security enhancements, and $155 million is earmarked for Port Commerce state-of-good-repair projects and the redevelopment of the Greenville Yard-Port Authority Marine Terminal. An additional $1.6 billion is budgeted to complete construction of WTC projects, including the Transportation Hub and retail establishments.

The Capital Budget will generate 7,320 direct job-years and direct payroll wages of $674.7 million. Including indirect and induced effects, the total economic activity amounts to 16,730 job-years, $1.1 billion in wages, and $4.7 billion in economic activity.

Chairman John Degnan said, “The Port Authority’s 2015 operating and capital budgets reflect the priority we are placing on spending that will provide maximum benefit to the region, including better-maintained bridges, tunnels, and terminals for commuters, enhanced airport facilities for air travelers and modernized PATH facilities for mass transit riders. Our goal was to hold the line on administrative spending, so we can invest in projects that directly benefit the traveling public, stimulate economic activity, and create jobs.”

Vice Chairman Scott Rechler said, “As stewards of critical transportation facilities and the public’s funds, this budget strikes the appropriate balance between being fiscally disciplined, while increasing our capital investment in the region’s bridges, tunnels, ports and airports.”

Highlights of the capital budget include $329 million for state-of-good-repair work on airport runways and taxiway reconstruction; $273 million for continued construction to raise the roadway of the Bayonne Bridge; $223 million to modernize PATH stations, including Harrison; $40 million of PA-funded work as part of the $1.5 billion Goethals Bridge public/private partnership; $36 million for continued redevelopment of the GWB Bus Station; and $32 million to build an ExpressRail system at Greenville Yard-PAMT.

Funds also are in the capital budget to support the redevelopment of LaGuardia Airport’s Central Terminal Building; JFK runway and taxiway rehabilitation; Terminal A redevelopment at Newark Liberty International Airport; the PABT Quality of Commute Improvement Program; the Lincoln Tunnel Helix rehabilitation; and upgrades and planning for the PATH extension to EWR.

**The Ernesto L. Butcher EOC Is Dedicated**

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When not at work, Mr. Butcher was an accomplished poet; his daughter, Mijha Godfrey, read one of his poems at the ceremony, “We Are As Stars.”

Mr. Butcher joined the agency as a Management Trainee and progressively rose through the ranks. He was General Manager of the George Washington Bridge; General Manager of the Port Authority Bus Terminal; Assistant Director of Operations in Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals; Deputy Director, General Services; Deputy Director, Interstate Department; Director of Tunnels, Bridges and Terminals; and Deputy Executive Director for Operations. He was appointed Chief Operating Officer in 1999.