

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

PORT AUTHORITY NEWS BULLETIN

Office of the Executive Director

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November 7, 2016

I am pleased to announce that effective immediately, Stephanie Dawson, who has served as Acting Chief Operating Officer since April 2012, has been named the Port Authority's permanent Chief Operating Officer.

After more than 20 years of agency service, Stephanie had planned to retire this year to pursue other opportunities. However, at my request, she has agreed to remain at the agency as its Chief Operating Officer and will facilitate an orderly transition of leadership until her retirement in May 2017. As COO, she is responsible for the safe, secure, efficient, and economically sound operations of our four lines of business – Aviation, Port, PATH, and Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals – as well as Operations Services, the Storm Mitigation & Resiliency Office, and various other mission-critical functions that keep the region moving.

In her interim role, Stephanie was responsible for the line businesses as well as Port Authority Police (prior to selection of the Chief Security Officer). She oversaw agency operations during and in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, as well throughout the recovery efforts, as illustrated by her leadership in establishing the Storm Mitigation & Resilience Office. Most recently, Stephanie also played a key leadership role in the implementation of the 24/7 Agency Operations Center, a state-of-the-art facility that provides real-time monitoring of transportation systems and greatly enhances inter- and intra-agency communication and coordination, particularly during severe weather and other emergency scenarios.

Indicative of her dedication to service is Stephanie's highly decorated military career in the United States Army. Stephanie was the executive officer for the 369th Corps Support Battalion when it supported Ground Zero operations following 9/11. She is the first woman to serve as brigade commander in the New York Army National Guard, having commanded the 369th Sustainment Brigade from 2008 to 2011, and has served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. She retired from the Army in 2011 with the rank of Colonel, and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the rank of Brigadier General.

On Friday, Stephanie will lead the New York City Veterans Day Parade as one of three distinguished Grand Marshals – all of whom are 9/11 first responders and post-9/11 military veterans. There is no better time to make this announcement, so that we as an agency can recognize Stephanie before she proceeds with her march up Fifth Avenue, where millions will celebrate her and her fellow veterans for their bravery and commitment.

Please join me in congratulating Stephanie and supporting her as we move forward.

Patrick J. Foye

Executive Director