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A Changing of the Guard: New Chairman, Executive Director Named



Kevin J. O'Toole

Rick Cotton

The Port Authority Board of Commissioners on August 3 elected Commissioner **Kevin J. O'Toole**, a former New Jersey state senator, as the 20th Chairman of the Board. He succeeds Chairman **John Degnan**, who had served in the post since July 2014.

The Board also approved the selection of **Rick Cotton**, a former top executive at NBC Universal who most recently served

as Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Special Counsel for Interagency Initiatives, as the PA's new Executive Director. Effective 8:01 a.m. on August 14, Mr. Cotton will replace Executive Director **Pat Foye**, who served in the role since 2011 and last week was named the new President of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

In a press release following the election, Chairman O'Toole said, "This is one of the most critical periods in the Port Authority's storied history as we continue to rebuild and overhaul some of the region's most vital transportation assets, including the Port Authority Bus Terminal, PATH rail system, George Washington Bridge, LaGuardia and Newark Liberty airports, and the Gateway passenger rail tunnel project. I look forward to working cooperatively with this Board to make sure we deliver the projects that will improve the lives of everyday commuters, while enhancing the region's economy."

Executive Director Cotton said, "It is vital that the Port Authority have the ambition to provide world-class transportation infrastructure to our region. Assuring that our facilities

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Chairman Degnan, Executive Director Foye Bid Farewell to Staff

Transformative. That's been a word used often regarding the past several years at the Port Authority. It's been a whirlwind of change at the agency and for the region.

Leading the PA during this time were two men, Chairman **John Degnan** and Executive Director **Pat Foye**, who bid farewell to staff last week as Governors Chris Christie and Andrew M. Cuomo announced the appointments of **Kevin J. O'Toole** and **Rick Cotton** as the agency's next Chairman and Executive Director.

Chairman Degnan and Executive Director Foye, two dedicated public servants, shared a vision for the PA as a premiere transportation agency. With their direction, staffers worked to refocus the organization on its core mission and ensure that it maintains the

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Chairman John Degnan (left) and Executive Director Pat Foye back in November 2015, joining staff for a preview of the Oculus pavilion.

'Law & Order: SVU' Premiere Filmed At Oculus

Thanks to intel from a few Port Authority staffers (PA-parazzi, perhaps?), PA News learned that the World Trade Center



Transportation Hub's Oculus will make an appearance in the season 19 premiere of the hit crime drama "Law & Order: SVU."

Several scenes were filmed in the Oculus on July 28, featuring actors Kelli Giddish (facing camera), who plays NYPD Detective Amanda Rollins, and Peter Scanavino, who plays Detective Dominick Carisi.

World Trade Center Department staff played a supporting role in arranging the film shoot. In fact, **Glenn Guzi** and **Kimberly Trevisan** had the opportunity to get really hands on and serve as extras on the show.

The episode is scheduled to air in September.

Calendar

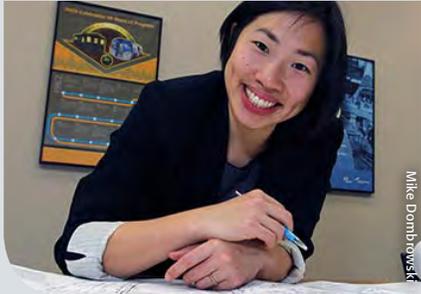
Pakistan & India Independence Day Celebration

August 18, 9 to 11 a.m., at 4 World Trade Center, 25th floor, Conference Room 25-05/06. The Port Authority Asian American Association invites colleagues to join its celebration of the 70th anniversary of Pakistan and India independence – when British India was divided into two sovereign nations. To RSVP or learn more about this event, email paaaa@panynj.gov.

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Achievements

PATH Staffer's Star Is Rising



Mike Dombrowski

PATH Project Manager **Winnie Chang** was chosen by *Progressive Railroading* as one of its 20 Rising Stars for 2017. Selected out of more than 220 nominations, these individuals are recognized for making a difference in their organizations and viewed as future leaders in the industry.

Ms. Chang, who joined the Port Authority as a 2014 Leadership Fellow and permanently placed in PATH last year, was nominated for her innovative work in fostering coordination among regional stakeholders, as well as among PA departments, to establish the best approach to the major development occurring along the PA's trans-Hudson rail system.

PATH General Manager/Rail Transit Director **Mike Marino** said, "Winnie truly exemplifies what a star employee is at PATH; she always works hard to ensure the job gets done, often times going above and beyond to meet deadlines and protect the safety and integrity of the railroad."

You can learn more about [Ms. Chang in her online interview with *Progressive Railroading*](#). She also will be profiled in the publication's September issue.

WTCC Intern Honored For Leadership

World Trade Center Construction Intern **Caroline Barrick** recently received the American Institute of Architecture Students' 2017 Chapter President Honor Award in recognition for her outstanding leadership and commitment to growing the AIAS chapter at her school.

Ms. Barrick, a student at the Syracuse University School of Architecture, served



Syracuse University

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The 115th Police Class Graduates



Mike Dombrowski

Eighty-three new Port Authority Police Officers were sworn in on July 28 during a graduation ceremony at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Hackensack.

These new officers – representing the 115th Police Academy class – join approximately 1,900 brave men and women serving in the PAPD, who are responsible for safeguarding some of the busiest and most iconic transportation facilities in the world.

"The role of policing has never been more important, and these new PAPD officers are more than ready to answer the call," said Chief of Staff to the Executive Director **John Ma**. "With their graduation from the Academy, the 115th class joins a police department with a long and storied tradition of excellence, sacrifice, and commitment to public service."

"This graduating class has chosen one of the most demanding and critical jobs in law enforcement today," said Acting Chief Security Officer **John Bilich**. "The PAPD is the reason our airports, tunnels, bridges, and transportation systems operate at such a high level of safety and security."

The 83 officers' graduation marks the completion of a rigorous 26-week training program in the PA Police Academy, through which they learned the laws of New York and New Jersey and received instruction in police procedures, firearms usage, counter-terrorism techniques, and first aid.

Additionally, this class is the first to undergo new training from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, which provides officers with the skills to recognize cognitive impairment and better assist local and international travelers.

"Our new officers are taking their place on a law enforcement team that is second to none," said Superintendent of Police/Director of Public Safety **Michael Fedorko**. "Port Authority police officers are among the best-trained police officers in the country. Millions of travelers who pass through our facilities every day are safer with the addition of these new members of the department."

The 115th class includes 73 college graduates and seven military veterans. Thirty-six have prior law enforcement experience, and members of the class speak a total of 11 languages, including American Sign Language.

Read more about the 115th Police class in the [press release](#).

Engineering Staffers Help Students Build Some Coasters

Several Engineering employees recently served as mentors to middle schoolers participating in the Salvadori Annual Student Design Charrette, providing them with guidance and motivation as they worked in teams to design, build, and test model roller coasters.

A charrette is defined as the "final effort made by architectural students to complete their solutions to a given architectural problem in an allotted time." That's exactly what was in store for these future engineers and architects, who were asked to create a new coaster for Luna Park in Coney Island.

Thankfully, during this all-day challenge, they had help from some of the region's expert builders, including Engineering's very own **Muhammad Elgammal, Omar Morales-Armstrong, Robert Parsekian, and Maura Rogers**.

These staffers continue a department tradition of supporting the annual charrette – part of its commitment to encouraging young people to explore careers in math and science.



Omar Morales-Armstrong

PA Execs Survey Progress on a Modern LGA



From left: LGA Redevelopment Project Executive Rich Smyth, Law's Elizabeth Rogak, LGA's Laurie Balbo, Law's Risa Resnick, OFD Deputy Director Sherien Khella, Chief of Staff to the Chairman Gary Heard, Chief of Capital Planning, Execution & Asset Management Michael Massiah, Treasurer Cheryl Yetka, Assistant General Counsel Tim Stickelman, LGA GM Lysa Scully, Interim Aviation Deputy Director Doug Stearns, CFO Libby McCarthy, OFP Director Ana Carvajalino, LGA's Jeff Nesbit, and LGA Deputy GM Tony Vero.

LaGuardia Airport General Manager **Lysa Scully**, Deputy GM **Tony Vero**, and LGA Redevelopment Project Executive **Rich Smyth** on July 26 hosted Port Authority executive staff for a site-wide tour, providing them with a firsthand look at the progress that's been made to comprehensively modernize LGA.

Among those on the tour were leaders who played key roles in shepherding this multibillion-dollar project, which [celebrated its groundbreaking](#) a little over a year ago, including Chief Financial Officer **Libby McCarthy**, Chief of Capital Planning, Execution & Asset Management **Michael Massiah**, Treasurer **Cheryl Yetka**, Office of Financial Planning Director **Ana Carvajalino**, OFP Deputy Director **Sherien Khella**, and Assistant General Counsel **Tim Stickelman**.

The group had the opportunity to survey the construction sites for a variety of state-of-the-art airport facilities, such as the future West Parking Garage, which will have 3,100 parking spaces, and LGA's 18-gate Concourse B. Both facilities are slated to be completed in 2018.

EEOC, PAAN Represent PA at Annual Sapolin Awards



From left: EEOC's Wayne Turner, Marketing's Kyle Hayes, Treasury's Mark Wellington (PAAN President), MOPD Assistant Commissioner Martha Jackson, EEOC's Natalynn Dunson-Harrison, HRD's Andrew Ellzey, and Peterson Labranche of Comptroller's. Not pictured: Planning & Regional Development's Graciela Ramirez.

Employees from the Office of EEO Compliance and the Port Authority Abilities Network were guests at the annual ADA Sapolin Awards at Gracie Mansion on July 26. The event, hosted by the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, celebrates the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The PA is invited each year in recognition for its ongoing work to improve accessibility for and inclusion of people with disabilities. Among those efforts is the agency's support of MOPD programs, including its role as an inaugural partner for the new NYC: ATWORK initiative – a public-private partnership that seeks to maximize career opportunities for people with disabilities.

PARA Board Members Elected

The Port Authority Retirees Association convened for its annual meeting in the Port Authority Bus Terminal's Times Square Hall on July 27, during which three new board members were elected while eight members won re-election.

Joining the PARA executive board are **Francis DiMola**,

former Real Estate Services Director who retired in 2011 after 35 years of agency service;

Cynthia Hadley-Bailey, a retired PA Police Detective who served on the force for 27 years;

and **Donna Tucker**, a 31-year agency veteran who last served as Principal Business Development Representative for the Office of Business Diversity & Civil Rights.

Returning board members include **Dave Gallagher**, who was re-elected as President, **Rae Ann Hoffmann**, who was re-elected as Vice President, **Holly Blausner**, **Steve Borrelli**, **John Fitzpatrick**, **Enoch Lipson**, **Frank Lombardi**, and **Peter Rinaldi**.

The PARA executive board is committed to representing the best interests of the agency's retiree community, providing information, resources, and advocacy on important matters such as benefits, Social Security, and Medicare.

PARA invites all active and retired PA and PATH employees to join its roughly 4,100 members. Visit www.paranynj.org for more information.



Pictured from top: Francis DiMola, Cynthia Hadley-Bailey, and Donna Tucker.

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In Memoriam

His friends at the Port Authority were saddened to learn of the passing of **Angel Saldana** on July 30. Mr. Saldana is survived by his wife, Nury, and sons, Justin and Angel.

Mr. Saldana joined the PA on October 1, 2007. At the time of his death, he held the position of Electrician at the Port Authority Bus Terminal.



Mark Your Calendars Now: Volunteers Wanted for PATH's A(mbassador) Team in October

If you missed your chance to serve as a PATH Ambassador during the New York-Penn Station service disruptions this summer, you're in luck. PATH will be organizing a squad of ambassadors for the fall.

PATH will need Port Authority employees to help provide guidance and information to customers during scheduled service changes on its system over three weekends in October. The changes are necessary to conduct testing for PATH's new Positive Train Control technology.

If you want to represent the PA on the front lines and directly help its customers, as well as your colleagues in PATH who are working tirelessly to keep the region moving, then sign up for this volunteer opportunity. You'll even get to wear a snazzy yellow vest.

To learn how to get involved, email **Jessica Mills** at jmills@panynj.gov.



Some of the PATH Ambassadors in action: (from right) The Office of Continuous Improvement's Saketh Patibandla with PATH's Lorraine Orosz, Christine Romeo, Grace Ostolozaga, Dominique Bonneau, and Connor Parker.

Calendar

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Run for the NET Exec Board

Deadline is August 31. Several members of the Network for Emerging Talent's executive board are rotating out of their roles, opening up the opportunity for new Port Authority staffers to help lead this Employee Resource Group. NET's mission is to create opportunities that foster relationships between employees from different generations and with different levels of organizational experience, ensuring that new and emerging staff can build trust with and gain broad institutional knowledge from those further along in their careers, and vice-versa. If you're interested in running for a board position, contact **Rob Donahue** at rdonahue@panynj.gov.

Earn Your Master's Degree

Seton Hall University is offering Port Authority employees the opportunity to earn their master's in human resources training and development – at half the normal tuition. SHU's 24-month, 36-credit program is offered exclusively in learning teams and held entirely online, with no required residency. Applications are being accepted for the fall 2017 semester, which begins in September. For more information, contact Dr. Sean McGee at 973 761-9389 or PA retiree Dr. **Dom Varricchio** at varricdo@shu.edu.

A Changing of the Guard: New Chairman, Executive Director Named

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– the airports, including access to the airports, the bus terminal, our port facilities, bridges, tunnels, and PATH – meet best-in-class facility standards and employ global best practices must be the Port Authority's overarching goal. Only if we measure ourselves against the best can the Port Authority help power this region's economy and continue to improve the movement of people and goods throughout the region, while creating jobs and growth. I look forward to working with the Board and the 7,000 men and women of this agency to deliver on our mission of meeting the region's transportation needs cost effectively and efficiently."

Chairman O'Toole joined the Board in July, following his nomination by Governor Chris Christie and resigning his state Senate seat from Essex County, New Jersey. He is a founding and managing partner of O'Toole Scivo, a law practice encompassing toxic tort, environmental law, risk management, class actions, complex litigation, and corporate investigations.

In addition to his law practice, Chairman O'Toole had a long career in public service at the local and state level in New Jersey. After serving in elected positions in Cedar Grove, he was first elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1995 and served until May 2001. He then served in the state Senate from May 2001 until January 2002. He was elected again to the General Assembly in 2001 and re-elected twice. In 2007, he was elected to the state Senate and re-elected in 2011 and 2013. He received a B.A. and J.D. from Seton Hall University.

Since January 2015, Executive Director Cotton has served as Governor Cuomo's Special Counsel for Interagency Initiatives, overseeing most of the Governor's major downstate infrastructure priorities, including LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International airports, the Penn-Farley Complex, the new Tappan Zee Bridge, and the expansion of the Javits Center. He joined the administration following 25 years at NBC Universal, where he held a number of positions beginning in 1989, including 20 years as Executive Vice President and General Counsel and four years in London as President and Managing Director of CNBC Europe.

Mr. Cotton also served as Executive Secretary to the Department at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare under Secretary Joseph A. Califano Jr. and Special Assistant for Renewable Energy to Deputy Secretary of Energy John Sawhill at the U.S. Department of Energy. He received an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Yale Law School, and served as a law clerk to Justice William J. Brennan Jr. on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Chairman Degnan, Executive Director Foye Bid Farewell to Staff

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highest caliber of transportation excellence, fiscal acumen, thought leadership, innovation, and public accountability.

It is with that legacy that the Board sought to recognize both leaders during its August 3 meeting.

Chairman Degnan was honored for his leadership of the PA through numerous governance reforms, his service on the Special Panel on the Future of the Port Authority, his efforts in convening the Trans-Hudson Symposium, which led to a commitment to develop the Gateway tunnels and the agency's significant role on this project, and his instrumental role in the development and approval of the \$32.2 billion 10-year Capital Plan and ensuring the inclusion of a new Port Authority Bus Terminal in the plan.

Executive Director Foye was honored for his leadership during the agency's Superstorm Sandy recovery and fortification efforts, his oversight of enhanced capital planning and prioritization processes, culminating in the latest Capital Plan, his focus on innovative project delivery and financing methods through public-private partnerships, as seen with the Goethals Bridge replacement and LaGuardia Airport redevelopment, and his direction in advancing several significant PA projects – including the substantial completion of the World Trade Center, the rehabilitation of the George Washington Bridge and Lincoln Tunnel, the modernization of PATH, and the raising of the roadway on the Bayonne Bridge.

Before both leaders made their exit, Mr. Degnan and Mr. Foye provided some parting remarks via a PA Broadcast to staff. *PA News* has included their full message here:

"It is with great respect and appreciation that we bid farewell to you after six and three years here, respectively. We are both grateful for the opportunity to have served the public, alongside each of you, during our tenures. With the support of Governors Christie and Cuomo, we believe that we have set a course for the Port Authority's future through improved standards of governance and transparency, our recently adopted, ambitious 10-year capital plan, and many innovative projects and partnerships underway to improve the region's transportation infrastructure.

"The infrastructure needs of the New York-New Jersey bistate region have never been more acute or front-and-center in the travelling public's mind. At the Port Authority, thanks to the work that each of you do day in and day out, we have an incredibly exciting roster of projects and initiatives that address our infrastructure needs, modernize our facilities, serve our customers better, do business more effectively, and ensure the continued safety and efficiency of our operations. These efforts include public-private partnerships and regional collaborations on major projects.

"From a leadership and governance standpoint, the reforms enacted in recent years and our efforts to enhance transparency were important and needed to be done. The agency's ethics, integrity, transparency, and accountability are critical to improving our reputation and the trust of the public that we serve. But we also hope that these measures will, in the long-run, shine a brighter spotlight on the great work that you do, so that you can receive fuller recognition from the public that we all serve.

"While we could list the many milestones reached and projects launched over the last several years, this agency's greatest asset, in which we will have enduring pride, is you – the men and women of the Port Authority. You are an incredibly talented and deeply dedicated group, who inspired us constantly to push forward, and do better. You have demonstrated time and again your resiliency and ability to get big things done. We also salute our represented employees who have demonstrated loyalty and civic duty these past years, while working under expired contracts. In the interests of the agency and of fairness, we have long advocated for resolution of these outstanding issues.

"Knowing your talent and dedication, we leave with strong optimism for the future of the Port Authority, and will root for your continued success. We wish you the best. Please join us in offering your support for the agency's new leadership as they join."



Outgoing Executive Director Foye and Chairman Degnan (second and fourth from left) were honored at the August 3 Board meeting. Pictured with them are new Chairman Kevin O'Toole (left) and Vice Chairman Jeffrey Lynford.

A Beneficial Meeting For Staffers

Human Resources' Total Rewards team has partnered with MetLife to host a series of free workshops to provide helpful financial information for employees at all stages of their careers.

The first workshop, titled "Smart Money Moves in Your 20s and 30s," took place last week. It was so popular that HRD had to add a second session. According to Total Rewards' **Shannon Gates**, who organized the meeting with MetLife, the workshop was well-received by attendees.

Total Rewards is hosting MetLife's next workshop this week, which will provide employees with practical tips for financial success in their 40s, 50s, 60s, and beyond. The first session filled up already, but spots are still available for the second session at noon on August 10 at the PA Technical Center, Room 212. [Click here to register.](#)

HRD is always looking for new ways to equip staff with valuable information about benefits programs, financial planning, and other important topics.

Be on the lookout for HR Broadcasts promoting future workshops and helpful resources.



Total Rewards' Shannon Gates welcomes staff to MetLife's first workshop.

Achievements

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as AIAS chapter president in 2016. As president, she organized programs to provide networking and career opportunities for her fellow students and to support the school. In doing so, she fostered collaboration among students, university faculty and staff, and local members of the American Institute of Architects.

Ms. Barrick will be formally honored at the annual AIAS forum on December 29 in Austin, Texas.