



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 9, 2014

**CONTACT:** John Collins, 917 496 4587

**EXTREME WEATHER CAUSES CHAOS IN AIR TRAVEL -- NYC AIRPORTS SUFFERED WORST DELAYS IN COUNTRY, SECOND MOST CANCELLATIONS GLOBAL GATEWAY ANALYSIS SHOWS**

*GGA Calls Havoc Wreaked on Air Travel in First Week of 2014 a "Wakeup Call to Focus on a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Aviation Infrastructure"*

**New York/New Jersey** – Global Gateway Alliance, the leading advocate for New York area airports and related infrastructure, today released an analysis of the seven worst cities for delays and cancellations in the wake of this week’s storms – and New York led the way along with Chicago.

During the most recent four-day period (January 4-7), the three major New York area airports accounted for over 5,100 delays and 2,100 cancellations, while Chicago’s two major hubs showed 3,000 delays and 4,600 cancellations. Over fifty percent of all flights at both airports were cancelled or delayed during the period.

Five other leading national cities for airport delays due to this week’s weather were Houston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Boston, and Cleveland (*see Table 1, below*).

NYC airports ground to a halt on Sunday, with 2,300 disruptions to inbound and outbound services, including nearly 600 cancelled flights and 1,700 delays. The chaos spread throughout the country as Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Boston and Cleveland were also heavily impacted by the inclement weather, resulting in over 5,200 delays and cancellations (*See Table 2, below*).

Responding to the mass delays and cancellations this week, GGA called for a greater focus among national and local leaders, airlines, airport operators and other stakeholders to create a more modernized aviation infrastructure system.

“The rampant cancellations and delays we saw this week are a wake-up call for leadership to start focusing on better airports, and they underscore why Governor Cuomo’s announcement that he is taking responsibility for NYC airport modernization is so timely” said Joe Sitt, Chairman and founder of GGA. “Bad weather that causes serious disruptions in air traffic is going to happen, but it shouldn’t continually wreak havoc. Travelers should expect everyone

involved in the industry to create a modern, safe and efficient aviation system, and should hold our leaders accountable for delivering.”

Specifically, the advocacy group urged initiatives including:

1) **Faster implementation of NextGen, particularly at NYC airports and other hubs:**

While NextGen won't stop bad weather from happening, it can help manage and mitigate the impact of individual storms. Since more severe weather often comes in waves, better management of delays and fewer overall cancellations will help avoid the cascading effect that created so many problems plaguing the air traffic system this week.

2) **Better customer service contingency planning:** With passengers always advised to “Call your airline” before going to the airport during a weather event, airlines and airport operators must make sure there are sufficient customer service agents on call to handle the volume and serve their customers.

3) **Modernized airport terminals:** Passengers are spending more time in airport terminals as a consequence of severe weather, as well as layovers and security needs, so it is important to improve the conditions in terminals. Pictures of passengers packed inside outdated terminals like LaGuardia's CTB this week demonstrate that significant investments are needed.

4) **Remaining focused on safety:** Taking responsible steps like investing in new deicing technology and facilities, runways that deice faster and ultimately cancelling flights when necessary, will help comfort passengers and create a more efficient system to handle severe weather.

GGA Executive Director Stephen Sigmund added, “For too long, aviation investment has taken a back seat to other budget and infrastructure priorities. But the first week of 2014 can serve as a turning point to putting resources, focus and leadership toward finally modernizing air travel. Our economy, brand and quality of life for millions depend on it.”

The following tables show the total number of delays and cancellations from Saturday, January 4 to Tuesday, January 07, 2014. The data collected was taken from FlightAware.com and updated as new information was released.

**Table 1 – Cities ranked by their total number of delays**

Rank	City	Delays	Cancellations
1	New York	5320	2155
2	Chicago	3134	4655
3	Houston	2064	599
4	Philadelphia	1989	644
5	Boston	1114	529
6	Detroit	1098	640
7	Cleveland	382	683

**Table 2 – The number of daily disruptions experienced at each airport**

	Disruption	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>New York City</b>	Cancellations	361	595	706	493
	Delays	1318	1692	1217	1093
<b>Chicago</b>	Cancellations	345	1446	1832	1032
	Delays	1122	805	448	759
<b>Boston</b>	Cancellations	63	86	236	144
	Delays	328	372	200	214
<b>Detroit</b>	Cancellations	28	200	164	248
	Delays	192	311	326	269
<b>Houston</b>	Cancellations	134	167	192	106
	Delays	448	657	651	308
<b>Cleveland</b>	Cancellations	38	134	294	217
	Delays	115	130	74	63
<b>Philadelphia</b>	Cancellations	108	290	134	112
	Delays	593	603	474	319

**Table 3**

New York Area Airports	Disruption	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Total	Total
JFK	Cancellations	154	183	257	144	738	2670
	Delays	592	621	282	437	1932	
LGA	Cancellations	61	205	261	156	683	2016
	Delays	245	428	350	310	1333	
EWR	Cancellations	146	207	188	193	734	2789
	Delays	481	643	585	346	2055	

**Table 4**

City	% of Flights disrupted	Avg. no. of daily flights
Chicago	62	3141
New York City	57	3279
Cleveland	57	456
Philadelphia	55	1200
Houston	48	1392
Boston	41	1007
Detroit	36	1214

**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 [www.globalgatewayalliance.org](http://www.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; **Stuart Appelbaum**, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; **Chris Giamo**, Regional President for TD Bank; Dan Glickman former Congressman and U.S. Agriculture Secretary; **David Hopkins**, Senior Director of Aviation at the New York City Economic Development Corporation; **Jared Kushner**, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; **George Miranda**, Teamsters' International Vice President; **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; **William Rudin**, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; **Joseph Spinnato**, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; **Alvin S. Trenk**, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; **Peter Ward**, President of the Hotel Trades Council on New York; **Kathryn Wylde**, President of the Partnership for New York City, and **Tim Zagat**, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey.