



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 18, 2013

**CONTACT:** John Collins, [917 496 4587](tel:9174964587)

## **GGA LAUDS CITY COUNCIL FOR DEMANDING BOINGO ALLOW FREE WI-FI AT NY/NJ AIRPORTS**

### **New York Area Airports are 3 of Only 5 Major Airports in Country with No Free Wi-Fi**

**(NEW YORK NEW JERSEY):** The Global Gateway Alliance today lauded the City Council for demanding free Wi-Fi at New York area airports, saying that it was unacceptable for the wireless provider, Boingo, to continue to charge 110 million air-travelers for Wi-Fi.

GGA sent Boingo representatives Dr. Seuss “Grinch” dolls to highlight the need to provide passengers with this basic amenity at the Holidays.

The City Council Committees on Technology and Government Operations held a joint hearing Wednesday on a resolution calling upon the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to amend its contract with Boingo in order to provide free Internet access at its three major airports. The Resolution is expected to pass the full Council later today. The Resolution relies on a GGA study demonstrating that 15 of 20 major airports around the nation offer free Wi-Fi, and New York area airports comprise 3 of the 5 that do not.

“We’re fighting on behalf of 110 million passengers who need free Wi-Fi to improve their airport experience, and have come to expect it as a basic amenity in public places throughout our City,” said Joe Sitt, Chairman of the Global Gateway Alliance. “We thank Council Member Brewer, and hope this resolution moves Boingo to finally amend its contract with the Port Authority and bring New York area airports in to line with the rest of the country.”

“New York City wants to be the greatest tech city in the world, but the gateways to our city are lagging behind in Wi-Fi access,” said Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President-Elect. “Access to internet has become an essential part of many travelers’ lives, especially with the transition to paperless ticketing on mobile phones or tablet computers. New York City airports need free Wi-Fi to maintain our status as a business and tourism destination. This is a common-sense solution that most of the nation’s large airports have already adopted. It’s time to bring our airports into the 21st Century, and give travelers the free access they need and deserve.”

“Travelers have enough on their plates. The last thing they should have to worry about is paying Internet fees when airports and transit hubs across the globe already offer these services for free,” added GGA Executive Director Steve Sigmund. “Boingo’s fees are bad for passengers. They’re bad for airports. And they’re bad for the long-term economic growth of our region.”

Under its current contract, Boingo can charge New York – New Jersey passengers \$4.95 an hour or \$7.95 a day for Internet service. Meanwhile, free Wi-Fi is offered by sponsors at more than 20 parks, transit hubs such as Newark Rail Station, and an estimated twelve public payphones.

## NEW YORK CITY – NEW JERSEY EXAMPLES OF FREE PUBLIC WI-FI

Location	Wi-Fi	Cost
LaGuardia, John F Kennedy, and Newark Airports	Yes	Boingo Charges 4.95 a day / \$7.95 a day (JetBlue Terminal 5 provides free Wi-Fi)
Central Park in Manhattan and Joyce Kilmer Park in the Bronx	Yes	Free Public Wi-Fi
Central Harlem	Yes	Free Public Wi-Fi
Payphones in Astoria, Queens and Cobble Hill, Brooklyn	Yes	Free Public Wi-Fi
Prudential Center, Newark	Yes	Free Public Wi-Fi

In early September, GGA sent a letter to Boingo urging them to allow a free, advertising-supported model that provides revenues to the company and the Port Authority, and gives travelers a better experience.

###

### **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.