



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2013

CONTACT: Stefan Friedman
(646) 241-7786

STATEMENT OF GLOBAL GATEWAY ALLIANCE ON FEDERAL FURLOUGH OF AVIATION SAFETY INSPECTORS

The following is a statement from Joseph Sitt, Chairman of Global Gateway Alliance:

“We knew the federal government shutdown would have a negative impact on delays at our airports, now we get a nasty surprise that passenger safety is being compromised, to boot.

“About 100 inspectors have been furloughed today at New York-area airports. As representatives of the largest airport system in the country, the inspectors are responsible for the safety of aircraft that account for 4,000 flights and more than 300,000 passengers every day at our airports.

“It defies common sense for the Federal Aviation Administration to determine that these safety inspectors are somehow not ‘essential.’ We can’t imagine anything *more* essential, and we demand that the FAA bring these inspectors back to work to ensure the safety of passengers.”

###

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 the website at www.globalgatewayalliance.org, or email info@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, **Kathryn Wylde**, President of the Partnership for New York City; **Joseph Spinnato**, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; **William Rudin**, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; **Stuart Appelbaum**, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; **Dan Glickman** former Congressman and U.S. Agriculture Secretary; **Jared Kushner**, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; **Alvin S. Trenk**, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; **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; **Peter Ward**, President of the Hotel Trades Council on New York, and **David Hopkins**, Senior Director of Aviation at the New York City Economic Development Corporation.