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## **GLOBAL GATEWAY ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

*Addition of Zagat Survey's Tim Zagat, TD Bank's Chris Giamo and Teamsters' International Vice President George Miranda further bolsters powerhouse board working to improve New York Metro region's airports*

The Global Gateway Alliance has named three new members to the organization's Board of Directors – who possess broad experience in aviation, tourism and regional economic growth that will help further the organization's goals, the Alliance's Board announced today.

The appointments bring the GGA Board to 14 leaders in business, labor, government and academia representing the New York New Jersey region and the nation.

The new members are:

- **Chris Giamo**, Regional President for TD Bank's Metro NY Division, including northern NJ;
- **George Miranda**, Teamsters International Vice President, At Large, and President of Teamster Joint Council 16;
- **Tim Zagat**, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey

Since its inception earlier this year, GGA has been instrumental in addressing the major challenges facing the metropolitan region's airports in an effort to improve infrastructure and facilitate the continued growth of the area.

**Chris Giamo** has more than 20 years of experience in the banking industry and has served as a TD Bank senior executive for the past decade. He is responsible for all retail, consumer, commercial lending and government banking in New York City, Long Island and North Jersey.

“I have had the opportunity to work in this region for more than 15 years and can attest to its unrivaled strength and character,” said Mr. Giamo. “However, if the airports do not improve and infrastructure continues to deteriorate, the area will not be able to realize its true economic potential. That is why I look forward to working with GGA to help in the effort to modernize our airport infrastructure and make sure the region continues to grow”.

He serves as a board member and Vice Chairman of the Long Island Association and serves on its Executive and Audit/Finance Committees. He also is a founding board member for Veteran’s Rock. Chris graduated from the University of Rhode Island, where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Economics.

**George Miranda** joins the GGA Board with extensive experience in the labor sector. He has been a Teamster since 1967 and currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 210 in New York, President of Joint Council 16, President of the Teamsters of the National Hispanic Caucus, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Teamsters Airline Division and Vice President of the NYC Central Labor Council.

“Tackling the challenges that face the region’s airport should be a collective goal. Its benefits will help not only businesses, but workers, as well. Improving our airports will result in considerable growth for the region, and thousands of good jobs” said Mr. Miranda. “I look forward to working with everyone involved to make sure that the New York Metropolitan area continues to be the world’s top destination.”

Mr. Miranda has previously held titles with the Teamsters which include assistant to the Airline Division Director, international representative for the Airline Division, personal representative for the General President and international temporary trustee.

**Tim Zagat** is the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey and has served in various prominent civic, cultural and charitable capacities. He is currently a board member of the Partnership for NYC, a Global Council Member of the World Travel & Tourism Council and on the Executive Committee of the Board of NYC & Company, the official marketing, promotion and tourism arm of New York City, which he chaired twice.

“I have had the opportunity to work with businesses large and small throughout my career and I know all too well the challenges local economies face when airports do not extend a welcome hand to visitors,” said Mr. Zagat. “Improving the region’s airports will help New York grow, thrive and be the top tourist destination in the world, and I look forward to seeing that happens through the work of GGA.”

Mr. Zagat earned an LL.B. from Yale Law School in 1966 and a B.A. from Harvard College in 1961. Between college and law school, Tim was Vice President of the United States National Student Association and Director of Reading Material Programs for the Peace Corps. He spent

20 years as a litigator. He and his wife, Nina, were inducted into the Hospitality Industry Hall of Honor and the James Beard Who's Who in Food & Beverage.

“Business, labor and hospitality – these three new board members represent three sectors that are critically impacted by the health of our airports,” said **GGA Founder and Chairman Joe Sitt**. “Working alongside Messrs. Giamo, Miranda and Zagat, GGA will continue to advocate to fix the problems facing the region’s airports and ensure the region’s growth.”

**GGA Vice-President and RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum** added, “Improving and modernizing our airports is critical across our region, and we’re pleased that so many sectors are coming together on the GGA Board to help meet this goal. Working together, we can help bring our airports back to preeminence and bring thousands of good jobs in the process.”

“It is not often that you have the opportunity to build a team that includes leaders like Mr. Giamo, Mr. Zagat and Mr. Miranda. We look forward to utilizing their counsel and guidance as we continue to push for major improvements to the region’s airports and related infrastructure,” said GGA Executive Director Steve Sigmund.

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## **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), or email [info@globalgatewayalliance.org](mailto: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; **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.