



PRESS RELEASE
Contact: Kathy Weatherall
(201) 451-3444

Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority Wins Outstanding Comprehensive Planning Award

American Planning Association cites BLRA for “visionary approach”

Bayonne, NJ, October 29, 2005 – The Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) was awarded the 2005 Outstanding Comprehensive Planning Award from the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association (NJAPA) at its annual awards luncheon October 28, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick.

The NJAPA’s annual “Outstanding Comprehensive Planning Award” recognizes organizations that are “in the forefront of planning” in New Jersey. The BLRA was cited its “visionary approach” and “excellence of thought, analysis, and sound planning principles.”

The award-winning plan for The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor calls for a vibrant mixed-use waterfront development plan comprised of residential, light industrial, commercial and office space. The site will also feature a marina with ferry service, access to public transportation, more than two miles of waterfront walkway and numerous recreational areas with parks and playgrounds.

“This kind of external recognition by another professional organization shines a light on the high standards the BLRA is using to manage this enormous project,” said Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr. “The BLRA is to be commended for assembling a world-class team of architects, planners and engineers.”

The APA planning award is just the latest organization to praise the development of the former military base. Earlier this year the BLRA won the New Jersey Planning Officials 2005 “Achievement in Planning Award” and the New Jersey Future 2005 “Smart Growth Award.”

Executive Director Nancy Kist at a special ceremony in Denver, CO, this summer won the national 2005 “Community Leadership Award” presented by NAID, an Association of Defense Communities.

Since the US Army transferred complete ownership of the former military base 2002, the BLRA has raised more than \$50 million in government grants and interim lease payments to make infrastructure improvements needed to attract development. These improvements include new bulkheads along the base’s south side and environmental remediation that was completed this year, ahead of schedule. Other projects include the installation of a new sewer system and planning for a new electrical grid and new roads.

The opening last year of the Cape Liberty Cruise Port last year – the first tangible step in the transformation of the 430-acre site – resulted in 51 cruise ship calls in its first season and created 300 jobs.

Then earlier this year the BLRA designated Fidelco Bayonne Realty to build out the “Harbor Station District.” Construction will begin early next year. The BLRA also expects to conditionally designate a developer for the “Bayonne Bay District,” by the end of this year.

Redevelopment of the Peninsula is organized around the creation of six different, yet integrated districts: **Harbor Station**, which will consist of mid-rise housing, office space, commercial space and civic facilities; **Bayonne Bay**, which will feature low- and mid-rise housing with views of the South Cove and adjacent golf course; **The Landing**, which will have a water transit docking facility surrounded by a commercial and entertainment area with shops, stores and restaurants as well as a residential section with mid-rise housing; **The Loft District**, which will be converted to hip loft-style housing units adjacent to the ferry landing with views of lower New York Harbor, the Verrazano Bridge and golf course; **Bayonne Point**, which will feature a cruise port, marinas for private boats to dock, seaside entertainment, cultural and retail venues and high-rise residential and office buildings, and **The Maritime Industrial District**, which will be transformed into a state-of-the-art deep-sea port with a design that is expected to rival the world’s leading ports.

For more information about The Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority, please visit www.bayonnenj.org/blra.

###