

PRESS RELEASE

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Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority Welcomes New Board Member

Bayonne resident Marguerite Baber to serve as BLRA Commissioners.

Bayonne, November 18, 2004 – The Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) has announced that Bayonne resident Marguerite Baber will join the BLRA’s Board of Commissioners. Baber was selected and appointed by Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr. with the advice and consent of the City Council on November 10th and will fill the unexpired term of former commissioner Joseph Gelchion.

“Marguerite is an exemplary woman in many ways and is widely respected in the community,” said Nancy A. Kist, Executive Director, BLRA.

“Her skills, knowledge and leadership will certainly serve as an asset to our Board,” added BLRA Chairman Howard Fitch added.

Baber is the president and founder of the Simpson Baber Foundation for the Autistic, and one of the leaders behind the Busy Bee Program at Bayonne Medical Center. Having personally been touched by the effects of autism – she has a teenage son with the disorder – Baber created the Foundation to offer support for families trying to understand and cope with the challenges associated with autism.

In addition to serving as president of the Baber Foundation, she is a teacher of the handicapped with the Bayonne Board of Education. She is the former Director of Financial Services for Katherine Gibb School in Montclair.

A graduate of The Academy of Saint Aloysius High School, Baber attended Trinity College and later Saint Peter’s College, where she earned a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in special education from New Jersey City University.



Baber has also previously served in the following positions: trustee and treasurer of the Bayonne Medical Center Foundation; director of the Bayonne Chamber of Commerce; vice-president of Rotary International; and director of the Bayonne Town Center.

In addition, she was named a New Jersey State Woman of Achievement in 2001, and a Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson County. Baber is also the recipient of the Bayonne Chapter of the NAACP and Ireland's 32 annual awards.

The Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority was created in 1998. The mission of the BLRA is to market The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor (former Military Ocean Terminal) for short and long-term redevelopment that benefits the City of Bayonne. Future plans for The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor call for a vibrant mixed-use waterfront development plan comprised of residential, commercial and office space. The site will feature marinas, ferry service, more than two miles of waterfront walkway on New York Harbor and numerous recreational areas with parks and playgrounds.

For more information, please contact Jessica Barnes at (201) 451-3444.

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