



PRESS RELEASE
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*At close of second season, Cape Liberty Cruise Port now ranks #2
in passenger volume among Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Ports*

Bayonne, NJ – December 9, 2005 – After two short years of operation, Bayonne/ Cape Liberty Cruise Port is now ranked second among northeast and mid-Atlantic ports in passenger volume. In 2005, the number of ship calls totaled 67 with 301,303 passengers passing through Cape Liberty port, according to Anthony Caputo, port director, Cape Liberty Cruise Port.

In 2004, Royal Caribbean established a homeport at The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor, which brought the cruise ship industry back to New Jersey for the first time in four decades.

Richard Fein, Chairman and CEO of Royal Caribbean Cruises said a number of factors influenced the company's decision to leave Manhattan and make a long-term commitment to Bayonne. "A key reason was the receptivity of the people of Bayonne and of New Jersey," he told *International Cruise and Ferry News* in 2004. "Cruise lines go where they are wanted, and our hosts there made it clear that they realized the values we offered their community and were very supportive of these."

The 2004 season began with two passenger ships — the luxury liner *Voyager of the Seas* and *Empress of the Seas* — which made a total of 51 ship calls, carried 238,000 passengers to Bermuda and the Caribbean and created 300 new jobs. Following the success of the first season, in 2005 the company expanded its operation with the addition of the Celebrity Cruise ship *Zenith* offering weekly cruises to Bermuda and *Constellation* which takes alternate trips to New England and Canada during the fall.

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Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) Executive Director Nancy Kist said Royal Caribbean's success at Cape Liberty is key to the long-term planning effort at The Peninsula. "The fact that Cape Liberty rose to a number two ranking in northeast and mid-Atlantic ports in such a short period of time is positive news for both Royal Caribbean and The Peninsula," she said. "Establishing a successful track record early on is certainly helpful in attracting new tenants to The Peninsula."

"The cruise industry and Bayonne are an excellent match," said Joseph V. Doria, Jr., Mayor of Bayonne. "This latest development is a win-win for Royal Caribbean and the city, and demonstrates again the advantage of our prime location in New York Harbor."

Since the U.S. Army transferred complete ownership of the former military base in 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.

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 an 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.