



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Jessica Barnes
(201) 451-3444

Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) Enters Agreement with Royal Caribbean to Create Cruise Port at The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor.

Bayonne, NJ, December 19, 2003 – The Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) Board of Commissioners voted last night to enter into an agreement with Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. to establish a cruise port at the former Bayonne Military Ocean Terminal (MOTBY).

The agreement provides for a long-term lease that will allow Royal Caribbean to develop a cruise port on a portion of the 430-acre peninsula. The cruise port will be located along the north shore just east of the Maritime Industrial District and west of a planned waterfront park that will offer unobstructed views of the Statue of Liberty, lower Manhattan and the Verrazano Bridge.

The new facility will serve as a seasonal homeport to two Royal Caribbean International ships, including one of the world's largest cruise ships, the 3,114-passenger *Voyager of the Seas*, which makes her New York metro area debut in May 2004.

The cruise port will feature a passenger terminal, ship berths, Customs and INS facilities, visitor parking, bus and taxi areas, as well as access to public transportation including ferry service and Light Rail.

"We are thrilled that Royal Caribbean discovered what a great place Bayonne is to do business," said Bayonne Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr. "This agreement represents the first significant achievement following the BLRA's announced public-private cooperative venture with Fidelco Bayonne Realty and one of many exciting announcements we expect to make in the coming year."

According to BLRA Chairman Howard Fitch, "This was truly a team effort. Our congratulations go to the BLRA staff and to our partners at Fidelco Bayonne Realty whose professional expertise helped make this deal happen."

Marc E. Berson, a principal of Fidelco Bayonne Realty, said this deal is “just the beginning” of what is possible when the public and private sector work together as true partners. “Our public-private partnership is already working the way we had envisioned it. We look forward to building on this success in the months ahead.”

"We are extremely pleased to be working with the BLRA and to be able to cement our presence in the market at such an ideal location, both for our expanded operations and the convenience of our guests," said Adam Goldstein, executive vice president, Royal Caribbean.

The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor is a man-made peninsula that extends two miles into Upper New York Harbor.

“Our agreement with Royal Caribbean will help Bayonne move forward in achieving the goal of replacing jobs lost – as a result of the closure of the base,” said Maria Karczewski, BLRA Commissioner and City Council member.

“There has already been tremendous progress at The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor,” said Vincent Lo Re, Jr., BLRA Commissioner and City Council president. “But this agreement with Royal Caribbean is proof positive that we can and will attract high-caliber businesses to The Peninsula.”

Royal Caribbean will operate out of existing structures for the immediate future. Long-term plans call for construction of a new cruise terminal and supporting facilities. Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. is a global cruise vacation company that operates Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises, with a combined total of 27 ships in service and two under construction or on firm order.

Ships carried goods from the MOTBY terminal for every US military operation from World War II to the Persian Gulf, Somalia and Haiti missions in the 1990s. At its peak, MOTBY employed about 3,000 civilians and US Army personnel and handled more than 1 million tons of cargo each year.

The Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority was created in 1998 to redevelop the former military base which today stands as the largest tract of undeveloped land in the New York metropolitan area. Future plans for The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor call for a vibrant mixed-use waterfront development comprised of residential, light industrial and office space, film studios, a riverwalk and numerous recreational areas with parks and playgrounds.

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

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