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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Names Lewis D. Schiliro Director of Interagency Preparedness

Metropolitan Transportation Authority Executive Director Katherine Lapp today announced the hiring of renowned security expert Lewis D. Schiliro to a new position as Director of Inter-Agency Preparedness. Mr. Schiliro, a twenty-five year veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is a former director of the F.B.I.'s New York field office.

Mr. Schiliro will be responsible for ensuring the continued development and implementation of comprehensive prevention policies and coordinated emergency response plans among all of the MTA's agencies including New York City Transit, Metro-North Railroad, the Long Island Railroad, and Bridges and Tunnels.

MTA Chairman Peter S. Kalikow said, "The MTA is indeed proud and fortunate that Lew Schiliro has joined our team of security and law enforcement professionals. His F.B.I. training and anti-terrorism expertise will guide us as we continue to build on our extensive efforts since September 11, 2001. He will lead this agency in developing and implementing increasingly sophisticated security policies that reflect and respond to new and changing threats."

Executive Director Lapp explained that in his new position, Mr. Schiliro will work with all of the MTA's agencies to coordinate preparedness and prevention policies. "Post 9/11, the MTA has worked diligently to ensure the safety of the millions of people who ride our system every single day. We have hardened our infrastructure, developed effective emergency response training for employees, and implemented smart anti-terrorism policies. Lew will ensure that the MTA keeps pace with the changing world around us, as well as with the changing nature of possible threats to our system."

Mr. Schiliro's responsibilities will include developing an ongoing risk assessment process in order to ensure that response protocols are in place and to prioritize funding requests. He will work with MTA security to review and analyze all emergency response plans in order to ensure agency-wide consistency and coordination, and he will supervise the security and emergency response training of all MTA employees. He will also provide ongoing evaluation and budgetary updates of all MTA security-related projects.

Mr. Schiliro has already begun surveying the MTA's security systems and procedures. "The systems are sound," Mr. Schiliro said. "I look forward to working with Chairman Kalikow, Executive Director Lapp, the MTA Police and all Agency employees as we strive to make the trains, buses, bridges and tunnels of the MTA as secure as possible. Millions of people each day rely on this transportation network, and we will work to make it the safest system in the world. Let us understand that while an attack is possible - it is certainly not inevitable."

A career F.B.I. agent, Mr. Schiliro has extensive background in anti-terrorism tactics and security including his role as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of both domestic and international terrorism cases in the F.B.I.'s New York field office from 1994-1995. As director of the New York office from 1998-2000, he also supervised 2,300 law enforcement personnel.