FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 4, 1999

CONTACT: Colleen Roche/Curt Ritter 212-788-2958

MAYOR GIULIANI ANNOUNCES HUDSON RIVER TRUST APPOINTEES

Board Will Oversee Development of Hudson River Park

Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani today announced his appointments to The Hudson River Trust, the Board responsible for overseeing the planning, design, construction, operation and ongoing maintenance of the Hudson River Park. The Mayor's appointees include; Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Planning Randy L. Levine, City Planning Commission Chairman Joseph B. Rose, Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Henry J. Stern, Georgette Mosbacher, and Richard Schwartz.

"Today we take another step forward in the development of the Hudson River Park," said Mayor Giuliani. "The creation of The Hudson River Trust will ensure that the Park is developed with the interest of all New Yorkers in mind. It will enable the City to develop Manhattan's West Side waterfront, and will bring a world-class waterfront park to the neighborhoods on the West Side and to millions of New Yorkers. I want to thank the members for serving on the Board and look forward to the completion of the Park."

In addition to the Mayor's appointees to The Hudson River Trust, Governor George E. Pataki will appoint five members and Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields will appoint three members, in consultation with Community Boards One, Two and Four.

The Trust will develop the Park as a place for public recreation and will be subject to requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, as well as all New York zoning and land use laws. When completed, the reconstructed Route 9A, formerly the West Side Highway, will be a landscaped urban boulevard, improving roadway safety, traffic flow and pedestrian access to the Hudson River waterfront from Battery Park to 59th Street.

-30-
GOVERNOR PATAKI NAMES APPOINTMENTS TO HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST

Governor George E. Pataki today announced the appointments of James A. Ortanzio as Chairman, and Theodore Roosevelt IV and Diana Taylor as members of the newly established Hudson River Park Trust.

"This park is the most important open space project for New York City since the creation of Central Park," Governor Pataki said. "We are creating a new public place for families to walk and play together, where friends can gather and seniors can sit and enjoy the magnificent waterfront that has been barricaded.

"For too many New Yorkers, the Hudson River has been a waterway seen only when traveling over a bridge or driving along a highway. Working in partnership with Mayor Giuliani, we can ensure that New Yorkers have a world-class waterfront park that will boost tourism and the City's economy, while also protecting the aquatic habitat of the river.

"Jim Ortanzio, Teddy Roosevelt and Diana Taylor bring the vision and commitment necessary to create a park that meets the needs of the Westside community while at the same time protecting one of the world's greatest and most historic rivers. I know they will get the job done."

The 550-acre park consisting of piers, upland and water areas, will stretch from Battery Park to 59th Street. The park will renovate the deteriorated Hudson River waterfront and piers for the public benefit and will once again make the waterfront an asset for New York City and the region. It will preserve, evoke and interpret the waterfront's history through direct preservation of the historic bulkhead and piers and the use of specific historical references in Park design elements.

The Hudson River Park Trust is a public benefit corporation with authority for the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Hudson River Park. The Trust replaces the Hudson River Park Conservancy. The Governor signed legislation creating the Trust last fall.

The board of the Trust will include five members appointed by the Governor, including the commissioners of the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), five members appointed by the Mayor, including the Commissioner of the City Department of Parks and Recreation; and three members appointed by
the Manhattan Borough President in consultation with Community Boards One, Two and Four.

more

James Ortenzio is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the J. A. O. Holding Company in New York City. He is owner of the Long Island Beef Company and the St. James Gourmet and has been Chairman of the Board of the Greater New York Meat Traders Institute since 1982. He holds a master's degree from the Leopold-Franzens University in Innsbruck, Austria, an M.B.A. from New York University and a law degree from Fordham Law School.

Theodore Roosevelt IV is a Managing Director at Lehman Brothers and a member of the Firm’s senior client coverage group that oversees the Firm’s client and customer relationships. Before joining Lehman Brothers in 1972, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy with Underwater Demolition Team Eleven and as a Foreign Service Officer in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta. He holds a bachelor’s and master of business administration degrees from Harvard University. He is an active conservationist and serves on the Chairman’s Council for the Natural Resources Defense Council and is a Vice Chair of the League of Conservation Voters.

Diana Taylor is Vice President for Government Affairs and Regulatory Relations/Community Development at KeySpan Energy. She previously served as Governor Pataki’s policy analyst for utilities. Before joining the Governor’s staff she was Executive Vice President of Muriel Siebert & Company, Inc. where she managed their Capital Markets Division. Taylor has also worked at both Lehman Brothers and Smith Barney and was one of five founding partners of the M. R. Beal & Company brokerage. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

The Park plan will provide continuous public access to the water’s edge through the creation of a waterside esplanade and bikeway. The plan will preserve views of the Hudson River while providing active uses such as ballfields, playgrounds, fishing and boating.

Governor Pataki and Mayor Giuliani, who have each pledged $100 million toward the park, broke ground on Stage One of the Park on October 22, and construction is ongoing. Stage One includes the portion of the riverfront that stretches from Charles Street to West 11th Street in Greenwich Village.

###