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## **NEW YORK CITY FIREFIGHTERS TO RECEIVE “NEW ASSIGNMENTS” FROM FDNY COMMISSIONER AS NEW YORK CITY AMBASSADORS**

### **- Announcement of U.S. Cities that Firefighters Will Visit To Say “Thank You” For Support and Invite Residents to Visit NYC -**

**NEW YORK (February 5, 2002)** – Surrounded by members of the New York City Fire Department, Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer, New York City Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and NYC & Company President & CEO Cristyne L. Nicholas announced in awards-ceremony style today the cities that more than 200 NYC firefighters will visit to say “thank you” for the country’s outpouring of support following September 11 and to encourage travel and tourism.

Participating firefighters were nominated to be “New York Ambassadors” by their firehouse captains and will travel across the country as part of a program announced at the Conference of Mayors’ Winter Meeting held in New York City last month.

“The entire country has been so impressed by the selflessness and heroism of New York City’s firefighters, police officers, and emergency workers in the aftermath of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack,” said New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. “The nation’s mayors and the nation’s cities want to show our appreciation and our support for these remarkable public servants and this extraordinary city. And we hope this new effort will help spur more travel to the many fun and interesting cities across our nation.”

“These generous invitations provide an exciting opportunity for New York’s Bravest to carry a message to the country from all New Yorkers thanking people for their overwhelming outpouring of support following September 11,” said Ms. Nicholas. “Once again leading the nation by example, our firefighters will encourage all Americans to defend and enjoy our basic right to travel while delivering a personal invitation to the country to come visit us back in New York City.”

“Cities Unite America and Thank New York Firefighters” is co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and NYC & Company. Delta Air Lines, Continental Airlines, Jet Blue Airways and Northwest Airlines, as well as Amtrak are donating tickets for this effort. Mayors are arranging local accommodations and activities for their guests. Travel will take place the weekend of March 1, 2002.

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*Note to editors: NYC & Company – the Convention & Visitors Bureau is the city’s official tourism marketing agency. A private, non-profit organization with a current membership of more than 1,300 businesses, the Convention & Visitors Bureau has been in operation since 1935. Its principal mission is to enhance New York City’s economy through tourism development by marketing the city on a worldwide basis.*