



**Regional  
Transportation  
Authority**

## **For immediate release**

**DATE:** December 18, 2007

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### **RTA BOARD MEMBER RETIRES AFTER NEARLY 20 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

Chicago – The longest-serving member of the Regional Transportation Authority’s (RTA) Board of Directors has retired. Reverend Addie L. Wyatt completed almost 20 years of service representing the City of Chicago.

Since her appointment in 1988, Reverend Wyatt has worked to improve transit access for persons of diverse backgrounds as a member of the RTA Board’s Finance and Planning Committees, and served as Chair of the Board’s Administrative Committee.

“Reverend Wyatt has been a true regional ambassador of transit for the Authority and her passion and guidance will be truly missed,” said Jim Reilly, RTA’s Board Chairman. “Her leadership and perseverance has helped build and strengthen this organization which we will need as we move forward during this financially challenging time.”

During the board meeting, Chairman Reilly presented Rev. Wyatt with a resolution in her honor along with 20 red roses – to symbolize her years of service. CTA Board Chair and RTA Board member Carole Brown read a proclamation honoring Rev. Wyatt from Chicago Mayor Richard Daley. Her fellow Board members also commended her exemplary service.

“Continue to do the good work that you have done. Continue to do more than you have ever done,” Rev. Wyatt urged board member colleagues at her final meeting on December 14. The region’s public transit system faces a major funding crisis that could adversely impact riders next month.

Reverend Wyatt has worked throughout her life as a political activist pushing for equal rights, equal pay – and while at the Authority – affordable and accessible transit. She worked side-by-side with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., distinguishing herself among the most influential civil rights leaders in the nation. In 1975 she was featured on the cover of *Time* Magazine as one of its 12 Women of the Year and has even been listed among *Ebony Magazine*’s “100 Most Influential Black Americans.”

Reverend Wyatt and her husband, Reverend Claude Wyatt Jr., founded the Vernon Park Church of God over 50 years ago and the Wyatt Community and Family Life Center has helped improve the lives of people living in Chicago.

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*The RTA provides financial oversight, funding and regional planning for the three public transit operations in northeastern Illinois: The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) bus and train, Metra commuter rail and Pace suburban bus and paratransit. For more information, visit [www.rtachicago.com](http://www.rtachicago.com) and [www.MovingBeyondCongestion.org](http://www.MovingBeyondCongestion.org).*