



## **Regional Transportation Authority**

### **For immediate release**

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### **TWO NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE RTA BOARD** *Appointees fill new positions created by transit reform legislation*

Chicago -- The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) announced the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors: Phil Fuentes and Michael Scott, both representing the City of Chicago. Transit reform legislation enacted in January by the Illinois legislature and signed into law by Governor Blagojevich expanded the agency's Board from 13 to 16. These changes became effective April 1, 2008. Both appointees will serve in five-year terms and attended their first Board meeting today.

#### **Phil Fuentes – Representing the City of Chicago**

Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Phil Fuentes as one of the City of Chicago's representatives on the RTA Board of Directors. Fuentes is a prominent Chicago businessman who owns and operates five Chicagoland McDonald's franchises through which he has won several national awards for demonstrating extraordinary community service. Fuentes is active in the Latino community and also sits on the board of directors for seven area organizations including the Rotary One Club. Fuentes replaces Armando Gomez who was first appointed to the RTA Board in 1995.

#### **Michael Scott – Representing the City of Chicago**

Michael Scott is another appointee by Mayor Richard M. Daley to one of the City of Chicago's seats on the RTA Board. Scott has been an influential force in local government serving as the President of the Chicago Park District, President of the Chicago Board of Education, Commissioner of the Public Building Commission of Chicago, and as a Board member of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority. Scott also has had a successful tenure in the cable industry. He formed his own company, Michael Scott & Associates, LLC, where he is president. Scott replaces CTA Chairman Carole Brown whose appointment ended with the new legislation enacted.

One vacancy remains on the Board as an appointment from the City of Chicago.

Just last month, four new members were appointed to the RTA Board because of the new legislation. They included:

#### **Jan Carlson – Representing Kane County**

Jan Carlson, a former chair of Kane County's transportation committee, will serve as that county's newest representative on the RTA Board of Directors. Carlson, an Elburn Republican, resigned his post after 12 years on the Kane County Board to take the new position. Before his tenure on the Board, Carlson served as the county's circuit clerk for 32 years. He has also served as the chairman of the Kane County Republican Party. Carlson replaces outgoing director Fred Norris, former mayor of St. Charles.

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### **Reverend L. Tyrone Crider, Sr. – Representing Suburban Cook County**

The Cook County Board of Commissioners approved Reverend L. Tyrone Crider, Sr., to represent the county on the RTA Board. Rev. Crider serves as the senior pastor at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Chicago. Prior leadership positions he has held include organizing the New Hope Community Baptist Church of Chicago in 1991, serving as Director of Admissions and Associate Dean of Students at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio and serving as National Executive Director of Operation PUSH, the civil rights advocacy organization founded and headed by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. Rev. Crider lives in suburban Cook County.

### **Al Jourdan – Representing McHenry County**

The McHenry County Board selected Al Jourdan to take the county's new seat on the RTA's Board of Directors. Jourdan spent 24 years as McHenry County's auditor. He is a former chairman of the state and county Republican Party and has been a longtime advocate for the collar counties.

Previously, McHenry County shared two appointments with Kane, Lake and Will Counties.

### **J. D. Ross – Representing Will County**

J.D. Ross will serve Will County citizens as its first representative to sit on the RTA Board. Mr. Ross is currently the executive director of the Will-Grundy Medical Clinic. Before joining the clinic, he was the president of Joliet Junior College until he retired in 2006.

Ross is active in the community as a member and president of the Joliet Area Historical Museum Board, a trustee of the University of St. Francis Board, a director on the Cornerstone Services Board and a board member of the Joliet Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center Foundation.

### ***About the Reform Legislation***

Approved in January, House Bill 656 expands the RTA Board from 13 to 16 members. The following is a breakdown of the Board make up and the appointing authorities:

- 5 by Mayor of Chicago (appointee cannot be the Chairman of CTA)
- 4 by suburban members of the Cook County Board
- 1 by the President of the Cook County Board (from Suburban Cook County)
- 1 by the Chairman of the DuPage County Board
- 1 by the Chairman of the Lake County Board
- 1 by the Will County Executive
- 1 by the Chairman of the McHenry County Board
- 1 by the Chairman of Kane County Board
- The Board Chair is appointed by 11 members of the Board with at least 2 votes from Chicago, Suburban Cook and the collar counties.

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*About the RTA: The RTA provides financial oversight, funding and regional planning for the three public transit operators 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).*