



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

RICHARD A. MOCCIA

Press Release

February 5, 2009

- What:** Mayor Richard Moccia to hold Press Conference to talk about the Recent Improvements at the South Norwalk Railroad Station and vision for South Norwalk as the gateway to a thriving arts, entertainment and business hub.
- When:** Monday, February 9, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
- Where:** South Norwalk Railroad Station – Eastbound Lobby

- Parking Authority Completes Upgrades and Improvements at Sono Railroad Station – A Look Back at 2008 Successes and Vision for 2009 –

A much anticipated improvement project at the Sono Railroad station has been completed, and brings the city one step closer to achieving its vision for Sono as the gateway to a thriving arts, entertainment and business hub.

Improvements included a new closed circuit security system, new floors, power assisted doors, painting inside and outside, new creatively designed seating, lighting and landscaping in the spring and summer. Signage was improved for better pedestrian and traffic flow and commuters also benefit from the parking availability notification signs and text messaging systems. All improvements were aesthetically and architecturally designed to blend seamlessly with the train station's original historic character.

For additional commuter convenience, a free *Park and Ride* commuter shuttle service between the Maritime lot and the train station began in October, and for those who travel by bicycle, new bike racks have been installed on both sides of the station.

Projects planned for 2009-10 include a public art installation, which is a collaborative effort between the Parking Authority and the Norwalk Arts Commission, as well as several more custom designed bike racks, and new lockers at the train station. An energy efficient lighting system, expected to save the Parking Authority \$25,000 annually, is on the books as well.

"All of these projects were made possible through close partnerships formed between

the Parking Authority, the City, the Redevelopment Agency, the Transit District, Southwestern Regional Planning Authority and the Arts Commission and their successes serve as a positive example of what can be achieved when all work toward one common goal," stated Kathryn Hebert, Administrative Services Manager.

Mayor Richard Moccia said, "I consider the train station and Sono the crown jewel of Norwalk's image and a welcome mat for visitors to our city. These projects could not have been possible without the collaboration and cooperation between various groups, business owners and involved citizens of the community. This project is just the beginning of the City's Transit Oriented Development vision, creating activity between the railroad station and the South Norwalk urban center through pedestrian and biking walkways."

Mayor Moccia and the Parking Authority have scheduled a press conference and Q&A session in the east bound vestibule of the station on February 9 @ 4:00 p.m. to discuss these successes and the city's vision for South Norwalk moving forward.

Following the press conference, in honor of Valentine's Day, and to commemorate the upgrades and aesthetic improvements and the strong partnerships forged between everyone there will be a reception hosted by the Sono Station Café located adjacent to the lobby area on the eastbound side.

"We are delighted to host this reception, said Kevin O'Brien, owner of the Sono Station Café. It provides good will and shines a light on our newly polished historic train station, in addition to strengthening the bonds between local businesses, city agencies, commuters and visitors to South Norwalk."

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