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## **TJPA Attends White House Celebration of Joining Forces Initiative**

*White House Invites TJPA and its Contractor Webcor to Celebrate the First Anniversary of Initiative to Support, Recognize and Honor Veterans*

**Washington D.C., April 11, 2012** - Wednesday, Maria Ayerdi-Kaplan, Executive Director of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA), and Webcor, General Contractor for the Transbay Transit Center Project, were invited by the White House to attend an event celebrating the First Anniversary of Joining Forces, the initiative to recognize, honor and support veterans and military families.

Late last year, Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden launched an initiative to recognize and celebrate citizens, communities, and organizations who have demonstrated a deep commitment to service focused on improving the lives of military families and veterans. The TJPA has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Joining Forces Initiative since its inception.

Since the launch of the initiative, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority has entered into an historic Project Labor Agreement (PLA), which includes a provision to assist National Guard, Reserve, and transitioning active-duty military members with career training and employment opportunities through the Helmets to Hardhats and Wounded Warrior organizations. To date, the Transbay Project's construction workforce includes nearly 2% of workers who are veterans. We are working with veteran organizations to continue to hire our service men and women.

"It was a great honor to be at the White House supporting the Joining Forces initiative and celebrating its successes," said Maria Ayerdi-Kaplan, Executive Director of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority. "We are proud to support our veterans with employment opportunities and new career paths as they transition back to civilian life. As we move forward into the second year of this initiative, the Transbay Project, along with Webcor, has made the commitment to increase our veterans program substantially."

In an effort to continue to support and enhance our commitment to Joining Forces, the TJPA in conjunction with Webcor is dedicated to growing their veterans program as much as possible in the next year.