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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY MARKS 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT BY ENTERING INTO
THIRTY-FIRST SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH
TIMES SQUARE HOTEL**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that his Office ("SDNY") entered into a settlement agreement with the LONDON-NYC HOTEL, marking the thirty-first agreement between SDNY and a hotel in the Times Square Theater District to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (the "ADA"). The parties entered into this settlement agreement yesterday, the 20th anniversary of the ADA, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

On May 5, 2005, SDNY announced its Hotels Initiative, conducting a compliance review of almost 50 Times Square Theater District hotels. As a result of that compliance review, SDNY has entered into a total of 25 Voluntary Compliance Agreements with the following Times Square Theater District hotels: the ACCOR NOVOTEL, the COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, the CROWNE PLAZA, the DaVINCI, the DOUBLETREE TIMES SQUARE, the DREAM, the EDISON, the FLATOTEL, the HILTON NEW YORK & TOWERS, the HILTON TIMES SQUARE, the HOTEL 41, the MARRIOTT MARQUIS, the MUSE, the NIGHT, the PARAMOUNT, the PARK CENTRAL, the PORTLAND SQUARE, the SALISBURY, the SHERATON MANHATTAN, the SHERATON NEW YORK HOTEL & TOWERS, the TIME, the W-THE COURT, the W-TIMES SQUARE, the W-THE TUSCANY, and the W-UNION SQUARE. In addition, SDNY has entered into five consent decrees following lawsuits against five hotels -- the MODERNE, the AMERITANIA, the AMSTERDAM COURT, the RADIO CITY SUITES, and the HOTEL CARTER. SDNY is now in the process of finalizing agreements with approximately 18 remaining hotels.

The Hotels Initiative is only one of the ADA enforcement efforts of SDNY. Since the passage of the ADA in 1990, SDNY has taken a leading role in bringing numerous New York City institutions into compliance with the ADA, through court-approved consent decrees and voluntary compliance agreements.

Major accomplishments include:

- **YANKEE STADIUM:** On April 14, 2009, SDNY announced that it had completed its review of the new Yankee Stadium, resulting in an agreement with the new York Yankees to provide over 500 wheelchair spaces and 500 companion seats, accessible entrances, ticket windows, bars, lounges, restrooms, and other amenities. The Office had joined a lawsuit against the old Yankee Stadium for being inaccessible to people with disabilities; a Consent Decree resolving that lawsuit and bringing the Stadium into closer compliance with the ADA was agreed to in December 1999.
- **MADISON SQUARE GARDEN:** On November 5, 2007, SDNY entered into a comprehensive Consent Decree with Madison Square Garden, under which the Garden agreed for the first time to provide seating for people with disabilities at a variety of seating areas in the Garden. The Garden further agreed to pay a \$55,000 for operating out of compliance with the ADA.
- **APOLLO THEATER:** On June 28, 2005, SDNY entered into a Consent Decree with the historic Apollo Theater, under which the Theater, for the first time in its storied history, agreed to provide seating locations for wheelchair users, renovate its entrances, bathrooms, and other amenities so that they may be fully accessible to people with disabilities.
- **PUCK BUILDING:** On July 14, 2004, SDNY entered into a Consent Decree with the owners of the historic Puck Building, which successfully resolved a complaint that the Puck Building was inaccessible to persons with mobility impairments. The agreement ensures that this landmarked building in SoHo will be accessible to persons with disabilities.
- **SHUBERT THEATERS:** On September 25, 2003, SDNY entered into a Consent Decree with the Shubert Organization, Inc., which owns and operates 16 landmarked Broadway theatres -- the Ambassador, the Barrymore, the Belasco, the Booth, the Broadhurst, the Broadway, the Cort, the Golden, the Imperial, the Longacre, the Lyceum, the Music Box, the Plymouth, the Royale, the Shubert, and the Winter Garden. Under the Consent Decree, the Shubert Organization agreed to make these theatres accessible to people with disabilities in compliance with the ADA.

- RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL: On February 11, 1999, SDNY entered into a Consent Decree with Radio City Music Hall, requiring it to provide a wide range of accessibility improvements, including 50 wheelchair and companion seats, 240 assistive listening devices, and accessible restrooms, concession stands, and bathrooms.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA stated: "The 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act compels us to reflect on the progress we have made, but also reminds us that there is much left to do, to ensure that all Americans have equal access to public facilities. We are pleased that so many hotels in the Theater District of Times Square, the crossroads of the world, have agreed to increase accessibility to persons with disabilities. We look forward to similar successful resolutions with the remaining hotels."

The Hotels Initiative is being handled by the Civil Rights Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorneys ELLEN BLAIN, LAWRENCE H. FOGELMAN, CAROLINA A. FORNOS, and DAVID J. KENNEDY are in charge of the Hotels Initiative.

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