New York State
Commission on Public Authority Reform

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chairman Millstein Announces New Public Authority Board Member Training Program
NYS Commission on Public Authority Reform and CUNY Joint Program To Launch March 24

New York, NY – February 21, 2006 – Ira M. Millstein, Chairman of the New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform, today announced the launch of a new Public Authority Board Governance Training Program.

The training program was developed by the New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform (NYSCPAR) in collaboration with The City University of New York (CUNY). It is the first program of its kind, designed specifically for board members of state and local public authorities. The program, which starts on March 24, 2006 in Buffalo, will assist board members in carrying out their important legal, fiduciary, ethical and personal responsibilities in a manner that meets the highest standards of responsible governance.

The statewide series of one-day seminars will be taking place in Buffalo on March 24, Albany on April 28, New York City on May 19, Syracuse on June 23, Binghamton on September 29, and in Nassau County on October 20. The training program will include separate morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session focuses on board oversight and responsibilities and will offer strategies for addressing those responsibilities. In the afternoon, participants will attend sessions on the budgeting process, tax-exempt debt issuance, responsibilities of audit committees, and on understanding public authority financial statements.

“Training on governance responsibilities for corporate and non-profit directors has been widely available for some time,” said Chairman Millstein. “Since public authorities are unique institutions, we needed a program that addresses their specific needs. The vast majority of public authority board members in our state are volunteers and they have significant responsibilities. This training will guide and support their efforts and we hope that all public authority board members will take advantage of it.”

"I’d like to thank Commission Chairman Ira Millstein and CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein for making this program available so that we can ensure that all public authority board members are in compliance with the new training requirements,” said Governor Pataki. "The availability of this unique training builds on our government reform efforts and further strengthens public confidence in public authorities by ensuring that strong, uniform standards of openness, accountability and professionalism are followed at all times."

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The Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005 requires all appointed board members of state and local authorities to undergo training in their governance responsibilities.

"This training, conducted by the CUNY School of Professional Studies, was developed by some of the most respected faculty members from Baruch College and City College in collaboration with internationally recognized governance expert Ira M. Millstein," said CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein. "We are pleased to be able to offer this training to all public authorities."

All board members and executive directors of state and local public authorities are invited to attend the training. To register for the training, public authorities should call (646) 312-3231 or download a registration form at www.publicauthorities.org.

The New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform is an independent, broadly inclusive Commission. It is charged with reviewing operations of state and local authorities across New York and developing recommendations designed to improve the effectiveness and accountability of all public authorities. Chaired by Ira Millstein, its 12 additional commissioners were appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the New York State Senate and Assembly Legislative leaders, the State Comptroller, and the State Attorney General.

The CUNY School of Professional Studies (SPS), established in 2003, develops educational programs focused on serving the needs of New York's working adults and employers. SPS offers a unique place within The City University of New York to develop groundbreaking, interdisciplinary programs that draw on the expertise of more than 6,000 full-time faculty in its 19 colleges, as well as from practitioners in the field.

For additional information or to schedule an interview, please contact Val Rutstein at (212) 794-5568 or Valerie.Rutstein@mail.cuny.edu.

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