FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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POLLY HANSON NAMED AMTRAK CHIEF OF POLICE
30-year law enforcement, safety and security professional to lead police force that protects America’s Railroad

WASHINGTON – Polly Hanson, a well-respected safety and security professional with 30-years of law enforcement experience, has been named the new Amtrak Chief of Police.

She will lead the Amtrak Police Department of over 500 law enforcement officers and civilians across the country who work closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure the safety and security of the passengers, employees and property of America’s Railroad®.

“Polly is an excellent choice whose strong police, security and intelligence background is exactly what is needed to build on the significant progress achieved by the men and women of our police force,” said President and CEO Joe Boardman. “Her leadership skills and management experience will move the department to even higher levels of performance.”

“Sometimes in life there are opportunities that are a perfect fit and for me leading the Amtrak Police Department is that fit,” said Ms. Hanson. “I am eager to return to transportation policing where I will work closely with Amtrak employees, the riding public and state, local and federal law enforcement officers to protect America’s Railroad.”

Ms. Hanson’s career includes 27 years at the Metro Transit Police, Washington, D.C., rising up through the ranks from police officer to Chief of Police. She also spent three years with the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C. as Executive Director, Strategic Services Bureau and is presently Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security at the U.S. Department of Interior. In these positions, she has gained practical and extensive leadership and management experience and is well versed on issues ranging from policing, tactical crime analysis and research to security, intelligence and emergency management.

To identify the best candidates for the position, Amtrak involved the International Association of Chiefs of Police in the search and interview process. Ms. Hanson will report directly to the Amtrak President and CEO effective Dec. 17, 2012.

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Biography of Polly Hanson

Ms. Hanson spent 27 years with the Metro Transit Police Department, Washington, D.C. She advanced up through the ranks from police officer and served as Chief of Police from 2002 to 2007. She retired from the department in the position of Assistant General Manager for Safety, Security and Emergency Management.

She then worked at the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C. from 2008 to 2011 as Executive Director, Strategic Services Bureau with responsibilities including development of policies and procedures, tactical crime analysis, strategic planning, performance management and government relations. Presently, she is Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security at the U.S Department of Interior where she is a commissioned federal special agent providing policy guidance and oversight of law enforcement, security and intelligence programs.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Temple University and her MBA in Applied Behavioral Science from John Hopkins University. She is a former member of the Transportation Research Board of the National Research Council and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar.

About Amtrak®:
Amtrak is America’s Railroad®, the nation’s intercity passenger rail service and its high-speed rail operator. A record 31.2 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2012 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates intercity trains in partnership with 15 states and contracts with 13 commuter rail agencies to provide a variety of services. Enjoy the journey® at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on facebook.com/Amtrak and follow us at twitter.com/Amtrak.

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