CAT Employee SCORE sheet and celebrations

Paratransit Operations Director Brigitte Morrison graduated from the Neighborhood Leadership Academy on Monday. This organization is part of Step-up Savannah and was established to develop leaders from diverse segments of the community to enhance their leadership skills with a focus on advocacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

We would like to give a huge thanks and congratulations to bus operator Mona Hodges, who celebrated her 22nd anniversary with CAT on Monday.

Anonymous ethics and compliance hotline in place

CAT is committed to the highest possible standards of ethical, moral and legal business conduct.

In conjunction with this commitment, CAT aims to provide an avenue for employees to raise concerns without fear of reprisals or victimization for whistleblowing in good faith.

With this in mind, CAT has engaged Lighthouse Services, Inc. to provide all CAT employees with access to a third party anonymous hotline for reporting possible violations.

This service is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Reports may cover, but are not limited to: ethical violations; unsafe working conditions; quality of service; sexual harassment; discrimination; alcohol and substance abuse; fraud; conflict of interest; theft and embezzlement; violation of the law; falsification of contract; reports or records; wrongful discharge; internal controls; vandalism and sabotage; theft; conduct violations; threats; bribery and kickbacks; improper conduct; violation of company policy; and misuse of company property.

CAT Employee Newsletter

Dec. 9, 2020

Savannah Chamber supports CAT legislative priorities

We are thrilled to announce that the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce’s decision to include two CAT funding priorities on the Chamber’s 2021 state legislative agenda.

The legislative priorities include support for legislation allowing individual counties, by referendum, to use a Transit Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TransSPLOST) to fund transit capital, operating and maintenance costs.

The voter-approved funding would help make CAT a model agency for transit systems across the country – especially since it leaves the decision up to individual counties rather than requiring regional support as past transit referendums have done, said CAT CEO Bacarra Mauldin.

“arly Chamber support CAT’s request for state funding to expand ‘Agenda’ Continued on page 2

CAT implements employee text notification service

CAT employees have a new way to get important internal information sent directly to their phones. The new CAT employee notification service is being implemented to help improve internal communications. The texts will include notifications about meetings and events, emergency alerts, career opportunities and new policies. Simply text SCORE to 81411 to subscribe. We hope you take advantage of this additional communication tool designed to help you stay up to date with everything going on with CAT.
and enhance water ferry services along Savannah’s waterfront. The funding would help accommodate increased demand from hotel and residential development along the Savannah Riverwalk and from the planned expansion of the Savannah Convention Center on Hutchinson Island.

Planning for such growth needs to start early, since new ferry boats and docks can take years to construct, Mauldin said.

“It’s not like flipping a light switch,” Mauldin said. “You have to start these conversations today.”

The Chamber presented their legislative agenda on Dec. 3 during their annual Eggs & Issues Legislative breakfast at the Savannah Convention Center.

“As Chatham County and Coastal Georgia continue to add jobs, public transportation helps more Chatham County residents reach their places of work, essentially expanding employers’ potential workforce,” said Bill Hubbard, president and CEO of the Savannah Area Chamber. “The Legislature should approve a TransSPLOST option where voters could decide, by referendum, to utilize the existing statute. Also, as the Savannah Convention Center and surrounding area on Hutchinson Island expands further, the need to move more employees and meeting attendees across the river will require expanding the operations of the ferry system, another valuable component of Chatham Area Transit.”

The Chamber’s decision to support the funding priorities comes after CAT’s decision in October to postpone planned service changes, including the suspension of Sunday operations. The service changes were postponed until at least February to allow CAT officials to engage in more conversations with key community stakeholders, such as the Chamber, about working collaboratively to support transit services.

Obtaining the Chamber’s support is a first step. CAT will next work to get state lawmakers to pass the legislative priorities during the 2021 legislative session.

CAT Finance team SCORES with FY2020 audit results

The Finance team completed a successful Fiscal-Year 2020 financial audit. The results of the audit were presented to Chatham Area Transit Board during the special called meeting and workshop on Dec. 1. by the auditing firm Mauldin and Jenkins. The dedicated finance staff did an outstanding job during the year preparing for the audit as well as during the audit process. We are very excited to have another good audited year behind us. Great Job!

CAT CEO elected vice president of Georgia Transit Association

CAT CEO Bacarra Mauldin was elected last week as the vice president of the Georgia Transit Association. As vice president, Mauldin will help the association achieve its goal of improving public transportation throughout Georgia.

In addition to providing a forum for the exchange of information and ideas, the nonprofit organization works toward securing adequate and stable funding for public transit.

Veterans half-fare discount in effect

Now that fare collection has resumed, CAT is continuing to implement the half-fare program for veterans. To receive a discount, veterans can present operators with either a veteran ID card, discharge documents (DD 214) or driver’s license with a veteran designation. Proof of membership in a veterans’ organization such as the VFW, American Legion and AMVETS also will be accepted.

Half-fare ID cards also can be obtained by presenting proof of service at the ticket window at ITC. These IDs can then be used in place of military service documentation. When a veteran presents proof of service or a marked Half-Fare ID, operators should hit the five button on the fare box so we will be able to track how often the veterans discount is being used. Likewise, customer service representatives working at the ticket window should mark a green “V” on the half-fare ID, if veterans choose to obtain one.

Tracking usage of the discount is important because the CAT Board approved the discount as a six-month pilot program and staff will need to report usage statistics to the CAT Board prior to permanent adoption.

It is anticipated that the discount program will be continued by the Board for the long-term after the trial period ends.

To get the discount, veterans must present one of the following: Veteran ID Card, Discharge Documents, Georgia License with veteran designation. For more information, visit catchacat.org

CAT Board meeting Tuesday

The CAT Board will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15. During the meeting, we will thank our two outgoing Board members, Chatham County Commissioners Tabitha Odell and James “Jay” Jones, for their years of dedicated service to CAT. The meeting can be viewed on CAT’s YouTube page at: YouTube.com/ChathamAreaTransit.