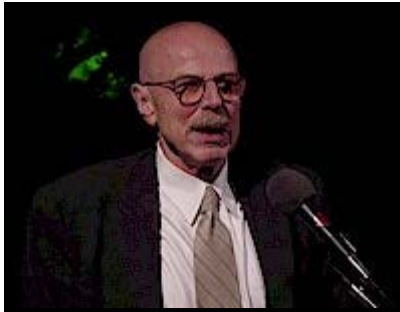




LA County Officialdom Says 'Farewell' to CEO Julian Burke

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"I really am moved," Burke told guests at the reception.

- FRIDAY EVENTS
[Program for Employee Reception Honoring Julian Burke](#)

By BILL HEARD, Editor
(Sept. 20, 2001) Los Angeles County officialdom said farewell to Julian Burke, Wednesday evening, with words of praise for the accomplishments of his four years as the MTA's chief executive officer.

During a reception at the Music Center that drew about 200 local officials and MTA employees, Burke – whose last day with the agency is Sept. 30 – was cited as the leading force in the reinvigoration of the agency's financial condition and the restoration of its credibility with federal and state funding partners.

"It was a different day when Julian came aboard the MTA," said Board Chairman John Fasana, the evening's MC. "We now have seen a tremendous turnaround at the MTA – a turnaround that would not have occurred without the steady leadership that has been provided by Julian Burke."

Supervisor Yvonne Burke noted that MTA morale was low and that projects had been stalled by a recession and other factors before Burke's arrival. "He has turned this agency around and has made a tremendous difference for the County of Los Angeles. He has brought a new spirit to MTA."

Commendations presented to Burke

Commendations also were presented to Burke by officials representing the office of Mayor James Hahn, the Alameda Corridor, Southern California Association of Governments and others.

Leslie Rogers, FTA regional administrator, praised the "professionalism, candor and integrity that (Burke) brought to all our endeavors...."

Rogers read a commendation from FTA Administrator Jenna Dorn that said, in part: "Under your leadership, MTA has made an important, positive contribution to the Greater Los Angeles community, helping to

revitalize neighborhoods and provide access and opportunity to people throughout the area."

In response, Burke said he was moved by the speakers' remarks.

"As the end of my tenure approaches, I am overwhelmed – almost with grief," he said. "However, that feeling should give way to my understanding that public service is a transient gift that Americans bestow generously on people. And sometimes even unexpectedly. This was a gift to me."

Credited his staff and Board

The CEO also credited the MTA staff and members of the Board with much of the success of his administration.

"While I have worked hard at this job, I didn't work alone," he said. "I could never have done this job without the support and intelligence and effort of so many colleagues within the MTA. And without the support and understanding of the Board that I've had all along this period...."

On Thursday, Burke was back in the office and was participating in the Executive Management Committee's deliberations. An employee-only reception for the CEO is scheduled from 9 until 11 a.m. on the Plaza outside MTA Headquarters. A commemorative program will begin at 10 a.m.

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