



**** NEWS ALERT ** NEWS ALERT ****
REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

2017 WAWA WELCOME AMERICA PRESS CONFERENCE

New Details Announced for 50 Free Events During the Six-Day Wawa Welcome America Festival – Philly's Homegrown Citywide Event Honoring the Nation's Independence

WHAT: Welcome America, Inc., the City of Philadelphia, Wawa, Live Nation Philadelphia and partners will announce details of 50 free events for the 2017 *Wawa Welcome America* six-day festival Thursday, June 29 through Tuesday, July 4.

New 2017 events join time-honored traditions and surprises. This year's theme is "Everyone is a History Maker."

On April 21, Welcome America, Inc. and Live Nation Philadelphia announced just ONE free event of the 50 free events. On July 4th at 7 p.m., global superstar Mary J. Blige will perform her only free concert in the U.S. on her new tour. The Philly POPS® will debut their BIG Band and Boyz II Men will be honored.

WHO: Scheduled speakers include:

- Welcome by Independence Visitor Center President & CEO James Cuorato
- Welcome America, Inc. President & CEO Jeff Guaracino
- Honorable James F. Kenney Mayor of the City of Philadelphia
- Wawa President & CEO Chris Gheysens
- Comcast Corporation Senior Vice President of Community Investment and President of the Comcast Foundation Dalila Wilson-Scott
- NBC10 and Telemundo62 President & General Manager Ric Harris
- Independence National Historical Park Chief Ranger – Acting Deputy Superintendent Patrick Suddath
- Visit Philadelphia President & CEO Meryl Levitz
- The Philly POPS President and CEO Frank Giordano
- PECO Vice President of Government & External Affairs Tony Gay

WHEN: **Tuesday, May 23 at 1:30 p.m.**

WHERE: **Independence Visitor Center, 6th & Market Streets**
2nd floor mezzanine level/ Liberty View Ballroom

About Welcome America, Inc.

Welcome America, Inc. is a 501c3, non-profit organization in public-private partnership with the City of Philadelphia. Welcome America, Inc.'s mission is to promote American history, education and Philadelphia. The organization seeks to enhance the resident and visitor experience through citywide events that provide an economic boost to the local economy. Moving forward, Welcome America, Inc. will produce and assist in the growth of select city events year-round that can increase awareness of Philadelphia as an event destination. Founded in 1993, Welcome America, Inc. celebrates its 25th year in 2017. Welcome America, Inc. produces the annual *Wawa Welcome America* festival, the nation's premier July 4th celebration in the birthplace of our nation.

Wawa Welcome America is presented by Title Partner, Wawa, Inc. and presenting Broadband Communications Partner Comcast NBCUniversal with NBC10 and Telemundo62 as the local broadcast partners. With additional support by the City of Philadelphia, Live Nation and Philadelphia International Airport.

For more information, visit www.welcomeamerica.com. Join the conversation at:

- Facebook – www.facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica
- Twitter – www.twitter.com/July4thPhilly
- Instagram – www.instagram.com/July4thPhilly

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