

# Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans

## Board–Management Relations: A Critical Factor in Your Port's Success



Presented By: Board Chair Valerie Cahill & Port President Gary LaGrange

# Agenda/Topics To Be Covered

- ▶ Board Profile
- ▶ Nomination Organizations
- ▶ Diversity of the Board
- ▶ Board Relationship with Management
- ▶ Questions



# Board Profile

- ▶ Unsalaries and serve 5-year staggered terms
- ▶ 4 members are from Orleans Parish, 2 from Jefferson and 1 from St. Bernard
- ▶ Appointed by the State Governor from a list of nominees from 19 local business, civic, labor, educational and maritime groups.
- ▶ Board Members can recuse themselves.



# Board Member Recusal

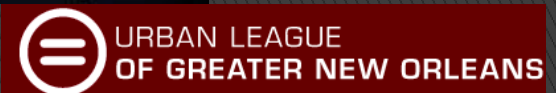
- ▶ Established under the Louisiana Code of Government Ethics, LA Rev Stat § 42:1120.1
- ▶ Few Boards give the Board members recusal privileges when there is a direct conflict of interest.
- ▶ Serves as a prerequisite for person from the maritime industry to serve on the board.
- ▶ Protects the integrity of the Board.





# Nominating Organizations

- ▶ Greater New Orleans AFL-CIO
- ▶ Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association
- ▶ International Freight Forwarders and Customs House Brokers Association of New Orleans
- ▶ Louisiana Farm Bureau
- ▶ Maritime Trades Council
- ▶ Metropolitan Area Committee
- ▶ New Orleans Board of Trade
- ▶ New Orleans Steamship Association
- ▶ Propeller Club
- ▶ Urban League of Greater New Orleans
- ▶ World Trade Center
- ▶ Xavier University
- ▶ Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Harvey Canal Industrial Association
- ▶ St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District



# Commissioners' Backgrounds



**Chairwoman**  
Valerie Cahill  
**Developer & Independent Investment Banker**



**Vice-Chair**  
Joseph Toomy  
**Insurance and Legislative**



**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Dan Packer  
**Electrical Utilities**



**Board Member**  
John Fay  
**Maritime Law**



**Board Member**  
Greg Rusovich  
**Shipping**



**Board Member**  
Wayne Mumphrey  
**Law and Judicial**



**Board Member**  
Scott Cooper  
**Towing and Stevedoring**

**New Board Member**

# Diverse Backgrounds

- ▶ Eliminates the perception of the “Fox guarding the hen house.”
- ▶ Members bring a fresh perspective to the table.
- ▶ Allows for vigorous debates on policy.
- ▶ Able to disagree without being disagreeable.





# Board Leadership

- Board members need to be willing to stand on principles when making policy.
- Be willing to look for common ground whenever available.
- Seek to work out disagreements in committee meetings, then try to enact policy with the full support of the board.





# Board Responsibility to Management

- ▶ Recognizing the fiduciary responsibility the Board has to the Port.
- ▶ Establishing the right protocols to maintain the proper boundaries between the duties of the Board of Commissioners and executive management.
- ▶ When management and the board are in disagreement, it's a time to listen and not to respond.

# Boundaries

- ▶ Management *never* gets involved in the nomination process of Board members.
- ▶ Board members re-direct any issues first to management. Management makes any recommendations to the board if needed.



# Port of New Orleans: Management



# Management Divisions

Executive

Operations

Port  
Development

Finance and  
IT

Administration

Marketing

Legal

Cruise and  
Tourism

Biz Dev/Real  
Estate

## Divisions

Port Operations

Port Development

Finance & Information Technology

Administration

Executive

Marketing

Legal/Risk Management

Cruise and Tourism

Business Development/Real Estate



# The Port's Land and Facilities

- ▶ Maritime servitude area from mile markers 89.5–114
- ▶ 505 acres of cargo handling area
- ▶ 137 acres of covered storage space
- ▶ Upwards of 1,000 acres along the Intercoastal waterway and the Industrial Canal



# Management Leadership



# Management's Responsibility to the Board

- ▶ At all times, keep an open line of communication with the Board.
- ▶ Fully disclose Board members on all new major developments at the Port.
- ▶ Before presenting any problem to the Board, completely vet proposals, then recommend solutions.





# ► Questions?

