

Port of Palm Beach District

Oppel elected Chairman of Port of Palm Beach District Commission

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Press Release: For Immediate Release



RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – Edward R. Oppel has been elected as the Chairman of the Port of Palm Beach District Board of Commissioners for 2014.

Fellow members of the five-member Port Board unanimously elected Edward Oppel during the January Board of Commissioners Meeting.

“We have a great staff and excellent Board of Commissioners who are totally in sync to grow the Port so we can continue to be a major contributor toward the economic growth in Palm Beach County,” Oppel said.

Oppel was elected as a Commissioner to the Port of Palm Beach District in 2005. He is currently in his third term as a Commissioner, and is serving his second term as Chairman.

Prior to his election to the Port Commission, Oppel served as the Executive Director of the Port from March 1996 to January 2000. During his time, he oversaw a \$100 million capital improvement project which included the construction of the SkyPass Bridge, construction and development of the Port’s now Slip 1 and the construction of the Port’s 100,000 sq. ft. cruise terminal and adjacent Class A office building.

Over Oppel’s 18 years affiliated with the Port as Commissioner and Executive Director, the Port has increased its revenues from \$7 million to more than \$19 million.

Blair J. Ciklin has been elected as the Port of Palm Beach District Commission Vice Chair, and Wayne M. Richards will serve as the Secretary-Treasurer for 2014. Oppel succeeds George E. Mastics as the Board Chairman.

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The Port of Palm Beach District was established in 1915 as an independent special taxing district, a subdivision of the State of Florida. The Port has not collected taxes in 38 years. Over \$5.3 Billion worth of commodities, two million tons of diversified cargoes and more than 345,000 passengers move through the Port annually.