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Contact: Stephanie Lee
(561) 842-4201

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slee@portofpalmbeach.com

Web site: www.portofpalmbeach.com



RICHARDS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF PORT OF PALM BEACH DISTRICT COMMISSION

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – Riviera Beach attorney Wayne M. Richards is the new chairman of the Port of Palm Beach District Board of Commissioners, elected today (Tuesday, Jan. 2) to a one-year term in that post by fellow members of the five-member port board.

“As custodians of the public trust of this business enterprise, I ask this board to be open to new ideas – a different way of doing things, to embrace collegiality, and most of all to become actively engaged in growing this port to ensure that the economic engine of Palm Beach County continues to meet and exceed its stated purposes,” said Richards, who is entering his seventh year on the board and his first term as its chairman. He served as secretary-treasurer in 2006.

Richards succeeds as board chairman George E. Mastics, who was elected secretary-treasurer for 2007. Dr. Jean Enright was elected vice chairperson for 2007. Also serving on the commission are Blair J. Ciklin and Edward R. Oppel, both of whom were sworn in for four-year terms.

“We are blessed with a host of opportunities, including those related to Cuba and other growth markets, as well as bringing to fruition the concept of the inland port,” Richards said. “To meet the challenges that we naturally face and to seize upon opportunities, it is essential that we chart a course for our future. In 2007, we shall lay the groundwork and foundation to enhance the long term viability of the Port of Palm Beach.”

In “charting a course for the future,” Richards pledged to focus upon active involvement with port tenant partners, the international trade sector and neighboring communities and legislators, as well as serving as good corporate citizens.

Richards’ extensive experience in engineering and law includes seven years as a mechanical engineer with Ford Motor Co. and three years as assistant city attorney for the City of West Palm Beach. He holds his law degree from the University of Michigan. His current law offices are just a few blocks from Port of Palm Beach.

The Port of Palm Beach District is an independent special taxing district, a subdivision of the state of Florida, which covers 971 square miles or about half of Palm Beach County.

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