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**PORT OF PALM BEACH COMMISSIONER RICHARDS TO LEAD  
TRADE MISSION TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, BAHAMAS**

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – Led by Port of Palm Beach District Commissioner Wayne M. Richards, the Port of Palm Beach is set to embark upon its first Caribbean trade mission, Feb. 27 through March 3, in conjunction with World Trade Center Palm Beach.

“We are delighted with the level of interest and participation that this landmark trade mission is generating,” Richards said. “It is indicative of the vital role that our port and region play in international commerce, in particular with key Caribbean trading partners.

“With virtually all segments of the Port of Palm Beach trade community participating, we are enthused about the prospects for a mission that will help us further build upon that critical role,” Richards continued. “This proactive effort to generate new business by taking our message directly to the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas will also re-enforce and strengthen existing ties and commitments.”

Prominent participants already committed to being part of the 15-member delegation include such elected officials as Palm Beach County Commission Chairman Tony Masilotti and, representing the Port of Palm Beach District’s land- and agriculture-rich Western portion, Belle Glade Mayor Steve Wilson. Three small-sized emerging business representatives from Belle Glade will also be on the mission. Port of Palm Beach District Commissioner Edward Oppel is to join Richards in representing the port commission.

Participants from the business community are to include representatives of Tropical Shipping, Palm Beach Cold Storage, Rinker Materials Corp., Gulf Stream Lumber Co., PSA Constructors Inc., CH2M Hill, Concrete Reinforcing Products, Cheney Brothers, Inc., and Catalfumo Construction and Development.

The mission is to include meetings with government and industry leaders in Santo Domingo, Nassau and Freeport.

“The synergy that exists between ports and World Trade Centers is well-established and is a key reason why there has been such a positive response to this joint trade mission,” said Alfred Zucaro Jr, chairman of the World Trade Center Palm Beach. “We are looking forward to a mission that will yield considerable results for years to come.”

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