

 **THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION * 925 HARBOR PLAZA * P.O. BOX 570 * LONG BEACH CA 90801

**PORT NAMES NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tom Teofilo Selected to Head Maritime Services Bureau**

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The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has appointed trade and transportation veteran Tom Teofilo to the position of Managing Director of Maritime Services. Teofilo, a Southern California resident with 35 years of industry experience, will take over the job on Dec. 6, succeeding Don Wylie who left the Port in July to accept a position in the stevedoring business.

Teofilo is no stranger to the Port or to the transportation industry. He recently resigned as the Southern California vice president of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), a San Francisco-based organization representing owners and operators of U.S. and foreign flagged vessels, marine terminals and stevedoring companies on the West Coast. In that capacity, Teofilo represented the interests of the maritime industry before local, regional and state governing boards.

Prior to his service at the PMSA, Teofilo was president and CEO of the World Trade Center Association of Los Angeles-Long Beach, where he expanded community outreach and trade services. At the World Trade Center, Teofilo established new programs to promote international business in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties, and successfully doubled the association's operating budget during the six years that he worked for the organization.

Teofilo's appointment to the position at the Port of Long Beach returns him to an organization that he left in 1986 in order to move into the private sector. Teofilo originally joined the Harbor Department in 1981. He was promoted to Director of Trade Development in 1984 where he served until leaving in 1986. As Trade Development Director he was responsible for overseeing Port tariffs, directing domestic and overseas marketing, and managing the Port's promotion budget. As managing director, Teofilo will now oversee the director position that he formerly held.

"I am very excited about coming back to work for the city," Teofilo said. "This is a great opportunity to take the experiences and skills that I have acquired over the years to do my part in addressing the challenges now facing the Port."

One of Teofilo's first challenges will be to build a new management team that will report directly to him. Wilma Powell, former director of trade and maritime services, retired from the Port in May, and her position remains vacant. Former Long Beach Police Chief Bill Ellis is the interim

director of security, and has indicated a desire to return to retirement after temporarily heading up the security division for two years. Yvonne Smith, the Port's director of communications, will retire from the Port in December.

"We'll be fielding a new lineup of directors within Maritime Services," Teofilo said of the managers whom he will hire within the months ahead. "Plus, I'm thrilled to be able to work alongside Executive Director Dick Steinke and an existing team of professionals that has decades of experience in the port industry. These are people with whom I have worked in various capacities for many years, and people for whom I have the utmost respect. Together, I think we will be able fill the vacancies that report immediately to me, and strengthen the existing team at the port."

Although Teofilo, 58, had planned to do consulting after leaving PMSA last month, he indicated that the Port job "is a great opportunity which I simply could not pass up."

Port of Long Beach Executive Director Richard D. Steinke said he welcomes Teofilo to the Port's management team. "Tom brings a wealth of experience to this job. He is well known and well respected in the international trade community and in Long Beach. I am confident that he will help to strengthen the port's ties to both its customers and the local community."

Teofilo is a resident of Long Beach. In addition to former stints at the Port, the PMSA and the World Trade Center Association, Teofilo served on the Long Beach Economic Development Commission in 1992. In that capacity, he chaired the City of Long Beach Naval Properties Re-use Committee. The committee conducted public hearings, evaluated proposals for the reuse of the Naval properties, and made recommendations to the City Council for the reuse of the property.

Teofilo also established the Long Beach International Trade Office, was former president and owner of the World Trade Services Group, and former senior vice president of Korea Shipping Corp. and assistant vice president of Orient Overseas Container Line.

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Contact: Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Media Relations Manager, (562) 590-4123 or wong@polb.com