



Olympic Gold Medalist Aaron Peirsol to Speak at Green Port Fest

Three-time gold medal swimmer to discuss environmentalism, clean ocean advocacy as part of Toyota's "Engines of Change" campaign

October 4, 2007

The Port of Long Beach will welcome Olympic champion swimmer Aaron Peirsol, a three-time gold medalist to the third annual Green Port Fest on October 13. Peirsol will discuss his role as an environmental advocate on behalf of clean oceans.

Peirsol's appearance at Green Port Fest is sponsored by Toyota's Engines of Change campaign, which highlights how a commitment to sport, community and making a difference in the environment can change the future. Toyota's Engines of Change athletes are working to make a difference out of the pool and encouraging people to be inspired and inspire others. (Toyota operates a major shipping terminal at the Port of Long Beach, where many of its environmentally friendly vehicles are shipped in and out of the country.)

In addition, Peirsol has teamed with Oceana, an environmental advocacy group dedicated to protecting and restoring the world's seas. Peirsol is supporting Oceana through his "Race for the Oceans," a campaign to raise funds and awareness for healthier oceans.

Peirsol, a three-time Olympic gold medalist and world record holder, is currently training for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

"Green Port Fest is an ideal venue for one of our nation's top athletes, Aaron Peirsol, to talk about the importance of protecting and improving the health of the ocean environment," said Long Beach Harbor Commission President Mario Cordero.

For more information on Peirsol's campaign with Oceana, visit www.racefortheoceans.org. For more information on Toyota's Engines of Change program, visit www.toyota.com/swimming.

About Green Port Fest

Green Port Fest is a free, public event 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on October 13, where the public can see more than 70 interactive displays and tour the Port by train and by boat. The event will showcase the Port's leadership in bringing environmental priorities to the goods movement industry. In addition to the displays on cargo operations and security measures, there will be live music and children's activities. The event will be held at the Port Administration Building, with free parking at the Queen Mary, 1126 Queens Highway. For more information, visit the Port's web site at www.polb.com.

About Aaron Peirsol

Aaron Peirsol won three gold medals at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, sweeping all the backstroke events and making him one of the top swimmers to watch in 2008 Olympics. He now holds the world record in the 100 backstroke and the four-by-100 medley relay. Currently training for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Peirsol gives back to his community as a spokesperson for Oceana, motivational speaking and youth clinics.

Contact: Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Assistant Director of Communications/Public Information Officer, (562) 590-4123, (562) 619-5665 (cell), or wong@polb.com.

Contact: Katrina Florence, Elevation Sports & Entertainment on behalf of Toyota and Aaron Peirsol, (310) 995-3619 (cell), or katrina@teamelevation.com