
MEMORANDUM



Date: January 25, 2019

To: Brian Wyer, Mayoral Transition Team (economic development & entrepreneurship)

From: Amy Miller, Port Director 

Re: Transition Team Port Tour Report

Brian – I understand that there is a requirement that each Transition Team meeting, event, etc. be documented with a written port-event report. Following is for use to that end. Feel free to edit/revise as you deem appropriate.

On January 25, 2019, members of the Transition Team toured the Port of Pensacola from 10 to 11 a.m.

Attendance was as follows: Transition Team Members – Brian Wyer, Michelle Salzman, Christian Wagley, Sena Maddison, Rev. Dr. Isaac Williams, Bruce Vredenburg and David Peaden. Transition Staff – Walker Wilson. Port of Pensacola – Amy Miller and Clark Merritt. General Public – Ashley Stone, Janet Walsh, Lawrence Powell and Erik Patterson. Media – Danielle Apolinar (WEAR-TV3) and Jim Little (Pensacola News Journal).

During the tour, participants learned that Pensacola's port is a non-operating landlord port meaning it owns, maintains and manages all the facilities but all of the day-to-day operations (loading/unloading trucks, railcars and vessels as well as warehouse and vessel operations) are all conducted by private sector businesses. Employment at the port varies because some users are contract-based operations that have more workers when they have active contracts and fewer when they don't, but it generally averages 100-150 with the City staff accounting for 10 of those jobs.

An overview of port finances was provided with the port director explaining that the port makes money from a combination of rent and lease fees, cargo storage fees, fees charged to vessels calling the port and fees charged against the cargo moving through the port. There was a brief discussion of the port's historic financial performance and how it compares to other Florida ports.

Attendees also learned about the port's long-term tenants and core customers, including Martin Marietta Aggregates, CEMEX, GE, International Paper, Offshore Inland Marine and Pensacola Bay Oyster Company, as well as its two current unique visitors: the American Magic sailing team that will challenge for the America's Cup in 2021 and the vessel formerly known as the Stena Freighter currently being retrofitted to become a rocket landing ship as part of Blue Origin's New Shepard program. Discussion included information about the types of cargo shipped through the port, the frequency of those shipments, how port staff markets the port and works to attract new business to the facility, and the types and range of jobs.

Mayoral Transition Team Port Tour
Post-Even Report Memo
Page 2

Environment Pillar leader Christian Wagley drew attention to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) tidal metering station located on the port. He informed the group that there is historical tidal data from Pensacola Bay dating back to the 1920s, which is important in monitoring sea-level rise, which is an emerging environmental concern.

Finally, the port director discussed the Moffatt & Nichol port study saying the final report was almost complete and expected to be submitted to the Mayor's office by the study team in the next few weeks. She said she believes that document will provide a forward-looking approach to future development of the port that will result in the port entering into a more diverse mix of business lines including marine research and technology and blue economy businesses along with its traditional maritime core. She said she expects the plan to be nimble and adaptable to real-world business demands while facilitating the continued evolution of the port from a 19th century asset to an asset suited for the maritime business environment of the 21st century and beyond.