



**SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Jacksonville Port Authority
2831 Talleyrand Avenue
February 6, 2024**

A meeting of the Jacksonville Port Authority Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at the Port Central Office Building, 2831 Talleyrand Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida. Chairman Bean called the meeting to order at 3:00PM and welcomed all attendees. He then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Attending:

Mr. Daniel Bean, Chair
Ms. Wendy Hamilton, Vice Chair
Mr. Palmer Clarkson, Treasurer – via Zoom
Ms. Soo Gilvarry, Secretary
Mr. Ed Fleming, Member
Mr. Tom Slater, Member

Other Attendees:

Mr. Eric Green, Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Beth McCague, Chief of Staff
Mr. Joey Greive, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Robert Peek, Chief Commercial Officer
Mr. James Bennett, Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Linda Williams, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Reece Wilson, Office of General Counsel
Mr. Chris Miller, City Council Liaison
Ms. Rebecca Dicks, Board Liaison

Chairman Bean extended a warm welcome to esteemed guests Dr. Ron Salem, City Council President, and Darnell Smith, Chief of Staff to Mayor Donna Deegan, and thanked them for attending this meeting. The Chairman also acknowledged and welcomed executives from Norwegian Cruise Lines, Mr. Juan Kuryla, Senior Vice President of Port Development & Construction, and Matt Weintraub, Director of Port Development.

Public Comments

Chairman Bean called for comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Chairman Bean noted that there is only one item on the agenda, a new cruise agreement with one of the most well-known brands in the business – Norwegian Cruise Lines. The Chairman emphasized the potential benefits of this agreement, emphasizing its role in connecting passengers sailing from Jacksonville to new vacation destinations. He discussed the agreement's expected positive impact on job creation and its contribution to the broader economic well-being of the community through the support of cruise related activities.

Chairman Bean turned the meeting over to CEO Eric Green who highlighted JAXPORT's longstanding relationship with Norwegian Cruise Lines.

Mr. Green recalled at one time, JAXPORT was a Port of Call for the Norwegian Regent Seven Seas Navigator. Additionally, he mentioned that during the pandemic, JAXPORT hosted three Norwegian cruise ships, one of which was the Norwegian Gem. This positive history of smooth sailings and collaborative efforts established a good working relationship between JAXPORT and Norwegian which led to the natural progression of today's agreement. The forthcoming commencement of Norwegian's sailings in 2025 marks a historic moment, as it will be the first time a Norwegian ship will be home ported in Jacksonville.

Mr. Green stated that he is excited to welcome the Norwegian Gem to JAXPORT next year. He expressed excitement about growth prospects for the cruise business and emphasized the role it plays in job creation and economic diversification. By expanding the port's popular cruise program, Jacksonville aims to attract more passengers from across the Southeastern US and beyond. Mr. Green thanked Norwegian for their partnership and looks forward to working with them to attract tourism, jobs, and positive economic impact to the community.

Mr. Green then introduced Norwegian Cruise Lines Senior Vice President of Port Development and Construction, Mr. Juan Kuryla.

Mr. Juan Kuryla expressed gratitude to the Board for convening this special meeting. He acknowledged the significance of the day, marking the first occasion of Norwegian Cruise Lines home porting in Jacksonville. Mr. Kuryla commended the dedicated efforts of CEO Eric Green and the entire JAXPORT team, spanning months and years, to attract additional cruise lines to the Jacksonville area. The anticipation is high for Norwegian's arrival in November 2025.

Mr. Kuryla emphasized the importance of feeling welcomed and valued as partners, expressing confidence that the outstanding treatment from the JAXPORT staff will ensure a positive experience for Norwegian passengers. He extended thanks to the Board, the Mayor's office, City Council members, and other dignitaries for their support. Mr. Kuryla conveyed optimism for a successful tenure and expressed gratitude for the warm reception in Jacksonville.

Chairman Bean then called on JAXPORT CFO Joey Greive to formally present BD2024-02-01.

New Business

**BD2024-02-01 Berthing & Terminal Use Agreement
NCL (Bahamas) d/b/a Norwegian Cruise Lines**

Mr. Joey Greive presented this submission for Board approval of a four-year agreement for a three-year cruise operation with Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) to provide passenger cruise service from Jacksonville, Florida, beginning in November 2025.

After a motion by Ms. Gilvarry and a second by Mr. Slater, the Board voted to approve this submission.

Chairman Bean invited City Council President Dr. Ron Salem to provide comments. As he reflected on his tenure as the Council Liaison to JAXPORT, he highlighted the remarkable growth of the port and underscored its importance to the city. Dr. Salem commended the Board and JAXPORT leadership for their diligent efforts in securing a deal that will have a lasting impact on the city, expressing excitement for the upcoming addition of a significant cruise ship to Jacksonville.

Chairman Bean then introduced Darnell Smith, Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Jacksonville.

Mr. Smith, representing Mayor Donna Deegan, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak and commended Norwegian Cruise Lines for choosing Jacksonville as its home port. Highlighting the significant economic impact of the cruise industry on the city, Mr. Smith emphasized the importance of building strong partnerships with Norwegian Cruise Lines to enhance Jacksonville's appeal as a destination city. He congratulated the Board and the JAXPORT leadership team for their efforts in fostering a positive relationship with Norwegian Cruise Lines, acknowledging the dedication of time and energy in building this partnership. Mr. Smith also extended a warm welcome to the Norwegian Cruise Lines' ship, the Norwegian Gem, expressing anticipation for future collaborations and success.

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:15PM. Chairman Bean extended an invitation to all attendees to join the signing ceremony between JAXPORT and Norwegian Cruise Lines.