

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR AUDITORIUM AT ITS OFFICE LOCATED AT 1350 PORT OF NEW ORLEANS PLACE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN MICHAEL A. THOMAS AT 1:39 P.M.

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Michael A. Thomas, Chairman
Sharonda R. Williams, Vice-Chair
Jeanne E. Ferrer, Secretary-Treasurer
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member
James J. Carter, Jr., Member
Darryl D. Berger, Member
Todd P. Murphy, Member

STAFF:

B. Branch, President & Chief Executive Officer
L. Marino, Chief of Staff & Vice President of External Affairs,
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel
A. Evett, Vice President of Infrastructure
Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
Lt. C. Clark, Jr., Harbor Police Department
M. Scelson, General Counsel
N. Dietzen, Staff Attorney
T. Black, Staff Attorney
A. Dawson, Director, Emergency Management
G. Brown, Chief of People & Culture
C. Rollins, Director, Financial Reporting & Forecasting
M. Steib, Information Technology Engineer
M. Austin, Information Technology Analyst
B. Bailey, Information Technology Specialist
E. Lecompte, Manager, Environmental
B. Skaggs, Manager, Environmental
H. Leumas, Manager, Engineering
K. Chinn, Procurement
J. Moran, Procurement
S. Schexnayder, Director, Communications & Community Engagement
K. Curth, Press Secretary
K. Mills, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement
A. Randolph, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement
M. Singley, Board Secretariat
J. Fields, Marketing & Communications Officer

GUESTS:

T. Bryant, NOPB
C. Kocur, NOPB
A. Peirez, HCNA

J. Koeflerl, HCNA
L. Edwards, Holy Cross Resident
L. Thompson, Holy Cross Resident
W. Edwards, HCNA and 9th Ward Resident
A. Thompson, Holy Cross Resident
G. Murray, Holy Cross Resident
A. Ropel, Holy Cross Resident
N. Pasache, Holy Cross Resident
J. Wittenbrink, HCNA
R. Promanase, Holy Cross Resident
J. Noel, Holy Cross Resident
R. Comadore, Holy Cross Resident
P. Cusimano, SBPG
J. Stephens, SBPG
B. Perez, Holy Cross Resident
C. White
S. Ravits, Media Gambit
T. Harris, HCNA
K. Hanley, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
J. French, Stop the Grain Train
R. Comadore, Stop the Grain Train
W. Edwards, HCNA and L9
C. Booker, Jr.
D. Lowell, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Thomas confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Chairman Thomas called for public comment and Ms. Singley announced that ten (10) individuals had requested to make public comment on matters not listed on the agenda.

Prior to inviting the speakers to the podium, Ms. Singley read the Board's public comment parameters.

Julie French, John Koeflerl, Joyce Noel, Richard Promanase, Bette Perez, Lindsay Edwards, William Edwards, Amanda Thompson, Charlie Booker, Jr., and Devin Lowell expressed their opposition to the lease agreement with Sunrise Foods International, Inc., the establishment of an organic grain terminal at the Alabo Street wharf, and the rehabilitation of the rail lines along Alabo Street.

In response to the public comments, Chairman Thomas read a statement on behalf of the Board.

III. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Branch provided an overview of the February 2025 volumes and productivity statistics as well as a summary of the month's highlights. She also congratulated the Board's Employee of the Quarter, Debra Carson.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for February 2025

Chairman Thomas called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for February 2025, as previously circulated. Commissioner Leger moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for February 2025

Ms. Rollins presented the consolidated financial statements for the month of February, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the consolidated financial statements and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Contract with A-1 Elevator Service, LLC to Provide Elevator and Escalator Maintenance and Repair Services, for a Period of One Year, with Two One-Year Renewal Options, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$315,000 for the Full Contract Term.

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commission Carter moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Murphy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. Closed Executive Session Convened in Accordance with *La R.S. 42:17A(2)*, to Discuss the Matter Entitled:

- ***Jeffrey S. Wittenbrink, Jr. and Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, Inc. v. The Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, No. 2024-11636, pending before Orleans Civil District Court, State of Louisiana.***

Chairman Thomas read the agenda item aloud and called for a motion to enter into a closed executive session, convened in accordance with La R.S. 42:17(A)(2) to discuss the above matter.

Commissioner Leger moved to enter into a closed executive session and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the Board entered into closed executive session at 2:14 p.m.

Following the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Thomas called for a motion to end the closed executive session and return to the open meeting. Commissioner Williams moved to end the closed executive session and Commissioner Murphy seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the closed executive session concluded at 3:15 p.m.

VII. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Thomas asked for Commissioners' comments but there were none.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Thomas called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams so moved and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.