

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025**

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**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 1:51 PM.**

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

**MEMBER ABSENT:** James J. Carter, Jr., Member

**STAFF:** B. Branch, President & Chief Executive Officer  
L. Marino, Chief of Staff & External Affairs  
G. Brown, Vice-President, People & Culture  
K. Bulliard, Prime Consultant  
K. Gilmore, Director, Real Estate  
C. Gilmore, Chief Engineering Officer  
M. Sulser, Manager, Engineering  
E. Gondek, Manager, Berthing  
J. Guidry, Vice-President, Waterfront & Terminal Operations  
P. Herring, Manager, Internal Audit  
K. Chinn, Procurement  
K. Curth, Press Secretary  
K. Mills, Manager, Government & Community Affairs  
J. Fields, Marketing & Communications Officer  
M. Naquin, Manager, Real Estate  
N. Dietzen, Staff Attorney,  
M. Singley, Executive Staff Officer  
S. Hodges, Board Secretariat

**GUESTS:** T. Bryant, NOPB  
C. Kocur, NOPB  
M. Scelson, NOPB  
A. Thompson, Stop the Grain Train  
J. Wittenbrink, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association  
C. Nicks, Stop the Grain Train  
B. Perez, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association  
J. French, Stop the Grain Train

J. Allen, QSL  
M. Green, Legal Observer  
B. Bourgeois, Executive Director, New Orleans Board of Trade  
E. Hansen  
C. Ponstein, Commissioner Emeritus  
P. Murano, Stop the Grain Train  
M. Madson,  
Z. Jernsedt  
J. Teitelbaum

#### **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 1:51 p.m.

#### **II. Public Comment**

Chairman Thomas called for public comment and Ms. Singley announced that eight (8) 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.

Cheryl Nicks, Julie French, Peter Murano, Amanda Thompson, Jeffrey Wittenbrink, and Bette Perez expressed 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.

Joshua Teitelbaum, Zue Jernsedt, and Michael Madson expressed their opposition to the war in Gaza and any business partnership or military shipment with the Port of Ashdod or Israel.

#### **III. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Branch presented an overview of the September 2025 volume and productivity statistics, along with a summary of the month's key highlights. Afterwards, she welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Dale Revelle to the Board and expressed her gratitude and best wishes to outgoing Commissioner Walter Leger Jr.

#### **IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for September 2025**

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

**V. Action Items:**

**A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for September 2025.**

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

**B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Execute a Consent to Assignment and Assumption of the Lease Agreement for the Lease with T Minerals, LLC to be assigned to Omya, Inc. for the Property Located at 7000 Jourdan Road, New Orleans, Louisiana.**

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into Respective One-Year Contracts with United Healthcare and Guardian Life Insurance to Provide Health, Dental and Vision Insurance and to Provide Long-Term Disability, Accidental Death, and Dismemberment and Life Insurance Coverage for Budgeted, Active Employees.**

Ms. Brown presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Leger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Execute an Amendment to the Consulting Agreement with Harris, DeVille & Associates, Inc. to Expand the Scope of Services and Increase the Total Not-To-Exceed Cost to \$200,000.**

Ms. Marino presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Leger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VI. Administration of Oath of Office to Mr. Dale Revelle**

Commissioner Leger commented on his term as Board commissioner and expressed his gratitude to all the commissioners and staff who worked alongside with him during the last five years.

All Commissioners thanked and praised Commissioner Leger for his exceptional service.

Chairman Thomas introduced Mr. Dale Revelle who had been appointed by the Governor to serve as Board Commissioner to represent Orleans Parish in position D.

Ms. Scelson administered the oath of office to Mr. Revelle. Afterwards, Commissioner Revelle took his seat at the Board table.

#### **VII. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Revelle expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board and pledged to contribute to its ongoing mission.

#### **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 2:51 p.m.