

Baltimore Celebrates 2007 and Beyond

I am pleased to report that 2007 has been a very successful year at the Port of Baltimore. New business, new security initiatives and environmental enhancements are signs of positive things to come. An important key to our maritime future is the return of Jim White as Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). Jim is a true professional with a proven track record. I look forward to working with him as we employ our plans for a more secure and competitive Port of Baltimore. During the first year of our administration, we have made substantial progress at the Port in a number of important areas.

Security: In September, MPA participated in Nautical Shield 2007, one of the most comprehensive homeland security exercises ever held in Maryland. In addition, our administration worked diligently with the Maryland Congressional delegation in Washington to secure additional federal port security funds. It is our goal to make the Port of Baltimore one of the most secure ports in the nation. Our strong relationship with our federal and local partners will continue to serve us well. We will work aggressively on many fronts to secure and protect our terminals, workers and neighboring communities from the threat of terrorism.

A record-breaking year: In the most recent national port statistics, the Port of Baltimore demonstrated record-breaking performances in several key areas. The amount of general cargo handled exceeded nine million tons for the first time. The total value of cargo reached nearly \$37 billion, an all-time record. Total foreign cargo surpassed 30 million tons for the third straight year. All outstanding results! Today, the Port of Baltimore is ranked No. 1 in the nation for both roll-on/roll-off cargo and imported forest products, and No. 2 for automobile exports.

Automobiles: The Port of Baltimore has developed a reputation as one of the leading auto-handling ports in the United States. This is due to the Port's industry-renowned auto quality program, its outstanding geographic location and its good, hard-working labor. And the results are showing: In the first half of 2007, the Port handled nearly 301,000 cars, a 32 percent improvement over the same period of 2006.

This past year was particularly exciting for the Port's auto business as it welcomed the first shipment of environmentally friendly electric cars from China. Baltimore is the exclusive East Coast port for these cars. This business came on the heels of the port attracting another opportunity of environmental business — large wind turbines that began arriving here late last year.

Environment: Our commitment to both the Port and the environment was evident this year when the Board of Public Works approved the Masonville Dredged Material Placement Project. Now under way, this project involves the cleanup of 22 acres of contaminated waterfront. It will be restored to create a wildlife habitat, a park and a community center for local residents. MPA also has installed measures to lower vehicle idling times at terminal gates, help reduce storm water runoff into waterways and create green space within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

New cruise line: Norwegian Cruise Lines announced they would begin sailing from Baltimore in 2008. With Norwegian joining Royal Caribbean, the Port of Baltimore now has established a strong partnership with two of the top three cruise lines in the world.

"E" Award: MPA received the Presidential "E" Award for excellence in exporting. This award was created in 1961 to recognize those that contribute significantly to increase U.S. exports. From 2002 through 2006, general cargo exported from the Port's public terminals grew 42 percent. In that same period, roll-on/roll-off export cargo increased 139 percent, while auto exports increased 169 percent. MPA, which also won this award in 1964, is only the 23rd port organization out of 361 U.S. ports to win this recognition. It is only the fourth port to win the award twice.

Vision 2025: As we look to the future, we are working with Jim White to develop a strategic vision that will take the Port of Baltimore to the next level in the highly competitive maritime industry. As an important economic asset for the State of Maryland, the Port must continue to remain a vibrant part of the global economy. Guiding principles such as developing and maintaining state-of-the-art facilities, ensuring our channels are dredged and safe for efficient navigation, and providing customers with prompt and courteous service will be the cornerstones on which we will build for the future.

While 2007 was a successful year for the Port, I look forward to doing even better in 2008. With our strong management team in place, the immediate future is very bright for the Port of Baltimore.



Martin O'Malley
Governor