

## APRIL 19, 2013

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, convened as the MANATEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY at Port Manatee in the Third Floor Meeting Room of the Port Manatee Intermodal Center, 1905 Intermodal Circle, Palmetto, Florida, at 2:00 p.m.

Present were members:

Carol Whitmore, Chairman  
John Chappie, First Vice-Chairman  
Michael Gallen, Second Vice-Chairman  
Vanessa Baugh, Third Vice-Chairman  
Betsy Benac  
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr.

Members not present: Robin DiSabatino

Also present were:

Carlos Buqueras, Executive Director  
Juanita Reinhold, Board Records Secretary,  
Representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

Work Session was called to order on April 19, 2013.

### MATARÓ DELEGATION

**Miquel Rey**, Regidor of Economic Development in Mataró, CEO TecnoCampus Mataró, introduced the delegation from Catalonia, Mataró, Spain; **Joan Bellavista**, Director of the Port of Mataró; **Jaume Teodoro**, General Manager TecnoCampus Mataró.

Mr. Rey reviewed the three main areas of focus for partnership: helping companies to export to the United States; agreements with universities; and share future markets and projects.

Carlos Buqueras, Executive Director, spoke about the region and the language. The regions of Catalonia, Mataró, and Barcelona are the one of the economic engines of the country.

**Ivan Mutis** explained an overview of the meetings with Broward County including a partnership with Port Mataró and TecnoCampus and possible sister city to Ft. Lauderdale. Research, development and incubator program discussions were held with Broward College and Florida International University (FIU). Entrepreneurs were introduced to the delegation for possible franchising with yacht facilities in Ft. Lauderdale and Port Mataró.

Mr. Buqueras discussed opportunities for trade and investment in Europe. Future provisioning, accommodations and repair for super yachts can be provided without disruption of Port business. At least 20 percent of the yacht trade is on this coast for the United States. There is potential for opportunities with Cuba.

**Tom Seguin**, Chairman for the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, offered Chamber support in welcoming International businesses.

**Sharon Hillstrom**, Economic Development Council, discussed the corroboration of businesses and the community to welcome international businesses to our area.

### MATARÓ

Mr. Rey showed a video overview of the region of Catalonia and the Port of Mataró. Mataró is an international industrial base and economic engine located in the Mediterranean Arch along with León and Milan. Multinational industries are located in the area. Florida is similar to Mataró in quality of life and location, creating a favorable environment for growth. Florida is a gateway to

the United States, Caribbean, and South America as Catalonia is a gateway to Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East. North Africa will be developed in the coming years.

Mr. Bellavista showed a video and slide presentation of Port Mataró and future expansion. Port Mataró houses 1,800 slips, sailing schools, diving centers, a four-star hotel, crew accommodations, industrial and traditional fishing, dining and boat repair. Ferry service is provided to area islands such as Balearic Islands, and the Italian and French Riviera.

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Mr. Buqueras suggested the use of high speed ferries for service to Cuba from Port Manatee.

Mr. Bellavista discussed expansion at the Port, yacht facilities, wet docks, amenities, commercial space and helicopter facilities. The expansions should be completed in five years. Partners are being sought for franchise and delivery services. Due to the proximity of the Mediterranean Arch and the Florida Gateways, there is a competitive advantage that could be exploited together. The new facilities will bring in larger revenues.

Mr. Buqueras would like to import more of the Mataró products and wines. Facilities and amenities could be expanded and reciprocated here in Florida.

### TECNOCAMPUS

Mr. Teodoro, used a slide presentation to review TecnoCampus.

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The university and scientific park offer courses in business administration, marketing, healthcare, technology, administration and civil law. An agreement has been reached with FIU to establish a bridge with TecnoCampus. The Incubator program will allow development of a course resulting in degrees from FIU and Spain. TecnoCampus would like to seek agreements with colleges and universities in this area.

Mr. Buqueras discussed an agreement between Nova Southeastern University and the University of Barcelona.

Ms. Hillstrom inquired as to how to pursue agreements with TecnoCampus.

Discussion: Incubator housed within university; international trade and exportation diversification; economic diversity allows a higher quality of life; expansion; hub businesses incubator in Sarasota; rowing championship; IMG Academy and Tropicana; sports medicine; free trade is politically sensitive in Spain; etc.

### WORK SESSION ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned.

Adj: 3:31 p.m.  
/jr