

Posidonia 2008: NOLA Opportunities Heightened for Trade & Increased Collaboration with Greece

News Release

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[New Orleans
City Council](#)



Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Presents
"Key to the City" to Athens City Council
President Theodoros Bechrakis

New Orleans, LA - June 10, 2008 - The first Louisiana delegation to Posidonia 2008, the world's premier international shipping industry conference, concluded its week long trip to Greece on Sunday. The delegation led by Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow included representatives from the New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center, the Port of South

Louisiana, Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and several local law firms and businesses.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "This trip represents a significant step towards solidifying commercial and tourism ties with Greece. The Greek shipping industry is one of the largest in the world and our delegation was received warmly by Greek officials and major international shipowners who welcomed the news that New Orleans is ready for their business."

During the bi-annual, week-long conference in Athens, the Louisiana delegation met with the Greek Foreign Ministry; the City Council President of Athens; Mayor Panagiotis Fasoulas of Piraeus (a former player in the NBA); the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM); and Travel Plan, one of Greece's largest tour operators in North America. The discussions ranged from formalizing close ties between Greece and New Orleans - such as reopening the Greek Consulate, to cementing an official "sister city" relationship between Athens and New Orleans. Tourism, investment opportunities and the New Orleans and South Louisiana ports were also major points of discussion.

The Louisiana delegation also sponsored a reception hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, where guests included leading Greek shipowners, government officials and Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago.

Additionally, the delegation attended events as the guests of major Greek shipowners such as Tsakos Shipping and the Restis Group. The Union of Greek Shipowners also hosted the Louisiana group at its reception which is considered to be the most prestigious event of Posidonia 2008. During the event, Councilmember Fielkow and delegation members were able to introduce leading shipowners to investment opportunities in New Orleans' maritime and real estate sectors.

"Over and over the delegation was thanked for bringing information on New Orleans to Posidonia regarding all of our investment and tourism opportunities. It is vital to continue spreading the message that New Orleans is a world-class city as we look towards expanding and strengthening our local economy through our growing worldwide presence," said Tom Mantis of Poseidon International Maritime.

Erin Butler-Mueller of the U.S. Department of Commerce's New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center and Tom Mantis of Poseidon International Maritime, Inc. organized the trip for the Louisiana delegation, with assistance from Eugene Schreiber and the World Trade Center of New Orleans.

New Orleans City Council

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans city government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.