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MPEA Welcomes Two New Board Members

Scott, Gates combine professional accomplishments with public service and commitment to community

CHICAGO -- The Board of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), the owner and operator of the McCormick Place® convention complex and historic Navy Pier®, has welcomed two new members. Both individuals bring extensive professional skills and business experience as well as community-based service to their new roles.

Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Michael W. Scott and John S. Gates, Jr. to fill two MPEA board vacancies. The MPEA board of directors consists of thirteen members: six, including the Chief Executive Officer, are appointed by the Governor of Illinois and seven, including the Board Chairman, are appointed by the Mayor of Chicago.

Scott is a real estate developer who has served the city previously as former president of the Chicago Board of Education. He is also the former president of the Chicago Park District. He serves on the board of the YMCA of the USA, the national resource office providing support and leadership to the country's 2,617 local YMCAs. Recently, Scott was also appointed to the Chicago Olympic Committee, the group trying to bring the 2016 Summer Olympics to Chicago.

Gates is a business leader who serves as chairman and chief executive of PortaeCo, a private investment and asset management company. He previously co-founded and served as co-chairman and chief executive officer for CenterPoint Properties Trust. During his 22-year tenure, CenterPoint became the largest private property owner/developer in the metropolitan Chicago region. Gates also devotes a good deal of his time to a variety of not-for-profit organizations.

“We are very pleased to have Michael and John join the board at such an exciting time, especially with the early opening of the new McCormick Place West Building this summer,” said Ted Tetzlaff, Chairman of the MPEA Board. “Both men bring valuable experience with public agencies to the Authority. Their skills in finance and construction will serve the board well in the coming years.”

Last year, MPEA facilities generated nearly \$5 billion in economic activity in the region.

Juan Ochoa, Chief Executive Officer of the MPEA, welcomed the two new members and said that their record of community involvement is as impressive as their professional accomplishments.

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“Both Michael and John have proven their dedication and commitment to their communities. This mirrors perfectly the MPEA’s goals of providing first-rate service to our customers and a great experience to our visitors,” said Ochoa.

The MPEA is a municipal corporation that owns and manages McCormick Place, regarded as the premier convention center in North America, and seeks to promote and operate conventions, fairs and expositions in Chicago, in an effort to strengthen the local economy. The Authority is also charged with carrying out the recreational, commercial and cultural redevelopment and operation of Navy Pier, which has become the Midwest’s most popular tourist and leisure attraction.