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MPEA Welcomes New Chairman

Gates brings professional accomplishments, public service and commitment to community to new role as leader of MPEA Board

CHICAGO – Mayor Richard M. Daley has appointed John S. Gates, Jr. as the new Chairman of the Board of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), the owner and operator of the McCormick Place® convention complex and historic Navy Pier®. Gates, who has served on the MPEA Board for more almost three years, brings extensive professional skills, business experience and community-based service to his new role. He succeeds outgoing MPEA Chairman Theodore R. Tetzlaff, who has held that position for nearly five years.

Gates is a business leader and real estate developer who serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of PortaeCo, a private investment 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 serves on the Boards of a variety of public, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

“I join the Board and all of our employees in welcoming John as our Chairman,” said Juan A. Ochoa, Chief Executive Officer of the MPEA. “John has proven to be a valuable asset, thanks to his experience with public agencies and his skills in finance, real estate and construction.”

“I would like to thank Ted Tetzlaff for his years of service. Ted devoted insight, time and energy to his important role with the Authority. His leadership was vital in helping the Authority execute a variety of initiatives at our world-class facilities,” said Ochoa.

During Tetzlaff’s tenure as Chairman, the MPEA opened the state-of-the-art McCormick Place West Building; brought back the *Coverings* show in 2007 to McCormick Place and the *Chicago Flower & Garden Show* to Navy Pier; signed new five-year contracts with Riggers Local 136 and United Steelworkers, as well as Local 17 Decorators Union; and both facilities added new state-of-the-art Security Command Centers.

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. The Authority also is charged with carrying out the recreational, commercial and cultural redevelopment and operation of Navy Pier, the Midwest’s most popular tourist and leisure attraction. The MPEA Board consists of thirteen members: six, including the Chief Executive Officer, appointed by the Governor of Illinois and seven, including the Board Chairman, appointed by the Mayor of Chicago.

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