



News from

## **Council President Todd Gloria**

City of San Diego ■ District Three

### **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **City Council's Port Nominees Stand City Attorney Affirms Council's Appointment Power**

*SAN DIEGO, CA (April 12, 2013)* – Council President Todd Gloria today announced that Rafael Castellanos and Marshall Merrifield would serve as San Diego's new representatives to the Board of Port Commissioners for the San Diego Unified Port District (Port). The announcement followed the release of a memorandum of law by the City Attorney clarifying the Mayor's lack of veto power on the appointments.

**“Our port is critical to the economic, environmental, and recreational health of the region, and I am glad San Diego is again fully represented by well-qualified candidates lawfully appointed by the City Council,”** said Council President Gloria. **“This City Council has consistently demonstrated our ability to work collaboratively and decisively in the best interest of San Diego.”**

Castellanos, a Democrat, and Merrifield, a Republican, were appointed with bipartisan support in early January to the Port Commission. The Mayor vetoed the appointments, and the City Attorney determined his action legal. Following an opinion from the California State Legislative Counsel Bureau that the City Council's Port appointments were not subject to veto, the City Attorney reexamined his earlier opinion and issued today's memorandum affirming the City Council as the sole appointing authority to the Board of Commissioners for the San Diego Unified Port District.

Castellanos and Merrifield will be sworn in as Port Commissioners in the coming weeks. Bob Nelson has been serving as San Diego's sole representative since January.

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*Council President Gloria is available for media interviews today between 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. at the City Administration Building. Please contact Katie Keach to arrange, 619-235-5268 or [kkeach@sandiego.gov](mailto:kkeach@sandiego.gov).*