



The Maryland Port Administration **PRESS RELEASE**

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PORT ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEE RECOGNIZED BY DUNDALK COMMUNITY

Sheckells Named Humanitarian of the Year

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- Maryland Port Administration (MPA) Chief of Environmental Initiatives Richard (Rick) Sheckells Jr. has been named Humanitarian of the Year by the Optimist Club of Dundalk, a community located just outside of downtown Baltimore. The award is given to someone who contributes significantly to Dundalk but does not live in that area. Sheckells has represented the Port of Baltimore on the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation board for six years.

Since 2008, Sheckells has played a key role in helping the Port of Baltimore win federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to reduce diesel emissions. Last year, in a very competitive process, the Port of Baltimore received more than \$5 million to help clean the air in and around the Port of Baltimore, including the neighboring Dundalk community. The awarded funding is going toward installing clean-diesel technologies in essential equipment used in harbor operations. Cleaner running engines can drastically reduce diesel emissions and improve air quality and health.

Sheckells also works closely with the Baltimore Port Alliance, an organization comprised of private and public local maritime companies, to provide outreach on ways to improve environmental conditions while increasing business opportunities at and around the Port of Baltimore.

The Port of Baltimore employs about 16,500 workers. Out of about 360 U.S. ports, Baltimore is ranked number one for handling roll on/roll off cargo; trucks; imported forest products; and imported gypsum, sugar and iron ore. The Port of Baltimore is ranked 14th nationally for total foreign cargo tonnage and 12th for total dollar value of cargo. The Port is responsible for about \$3.6 billion in personal wage and salary income. Activities at the Port of Baltimore generate about \$388 million in state and local taxes.

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