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Waterfront Alliance Welcomes Four New Board Members

Robert Balder, Michael Stamatis, Richard Weeks, and Dawn Zimmer Bring Expertise from the Working Waterfront, Urban Planning, and Government

New York, NY—The [Waterfront Alliance](http://www.waterfrontalliance.org) announces that four new members are joining its board of trustees: **Robert Balder**, executive director, Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art, and Planning in New York City; **Michael Stamatis**, president and CEO, Red Hook Terminals; **Richard Weeks**, CEO, Weeks Marine; and **Dawn Zimmer**, former mayor of Hoboken, New Jersey, now working for Schneider Electric.

The Waterfront Alliance is a coalition of more than 1,000 partners working together to inspire and effect resilient, revitalized, and accessible coastlines for all communities. Guided by our diverse, effective board of trustees, we advocate for equitable waterways and waterfronts that must adapt to the reality of sea level rise and climate change.

"The Waterfront Alliance has always had a spirited board of trustees, and now it's even stronger with the addition of Bob Balder, Mike Stamatis, Richard Weeks, and Dawn Zimmer," said Chris Ward, chairman of the Waterfront Alliance. "We're grateful that these experts are bringing their distinct skills and ideas to the Waterfront Alliance. With their guidance, and the entire board's efforts, the Waterfront Alliance will continue to have a vital impact on our waterways and shorelines."

As executive director of **Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art, and Planning (AAP) in New York City**, **Robert Balder** oversees AAP's academic programs and special events, and teaches courses on urban planning and design. Experienced in sustainable land planning, business development, and project management, he also maintains a professional practice. Prior to joining Cornell AAP, he was a senior associate at Gensler, co-leading the global Planning and Urban Design group. Bob also served as executive vice president for real estate development at the New York City Economic Development Corporation. He is a graduate of Cornell University, a member of Urban Land Institute, Society for College and University Planning, and American Planning Association, where he is the co-chair of the Waterfront Committee for the APA New York Metro Chapter.

Michael Stamatis, president and CEO of **Red Hook Terminals**, began his career in the early 80s as a dock laborer handling break bulk bananas for the global corporation Noboa. Working his way up through the company, he engaged in international trade, farming, commercial ocean transportation, chartering, terminal operations, break-bulk and container stevedoring, and vessel management. In 2000, he was promoted to senior vice president and asked to lead the company's operations in the U.S. In 2011, he left Noboa for the top post at Red Hook Terminals. Mr. Stamatis has strengthened maritime activity at Red Hook Terminals and has instituted fruitful new partnerships with

regional companies and agencies. In May 2018, Mr. Stamatis and Red Hook Terminals were named to develop and operate a new container and breakbulk terminal at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park.

New Jersey born and bred, **Richard Weeks** began his career with Weeks Stevedoring 49 years ago, in the summer of 1970, just before starting college. After graduating from John Hopkins University in 1975 with joint bachelors and master's degrees in international studies, he attended Harvard Business School, receiving his MBA in 1977. Shortly thereafter, he began working full time at Weeks, managing numerous projects in the New York area while also pursuing opportunities in construction, dredging, marine transportation, and chartering, leading over time to the merging of American Dredging, MP Howlett, TL James, Healy Tibbitts, Lahaina Dock and Pile, Gates, and other marine contracting organizations into what is now **Weeks Marine, Inc.** Rich is a member of the Dredging Contractors of America, the National Academy of Construction, Construction Industry Round Table, Construction Industry Safety Initiatives, and has served on the boards of the New Jersey Marine Science Consortium, Local 25 Operating Engineer funds, and the New York Maritime Association.

Dawn Zimmer served from 2009 to 2017 as **Mayor of the Hoboken, New Jersey**, the fourth most densely populated city in the country. Shocked into action after Hurricane Sandy hit the region in 2012, she established comprehensive, cutting-edge resilience strategies throughout the city, including the state's first municipal microgrid. She led a successful initiative to win \$230 million from the federal Rebuild by Design competition, and instituted a range of resiliency measures that led to Hoboken's designation as a Role Model City by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, joining San Francisco as the only U.S. cities to be given that designation. During her time as Mayor, Dawn served as co-chair of New Jersey Governor Murphy's Urban and Regional Growth Transition Committee, as well as being a member of President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. Dawn now works for **Schneider Electric** helping communities and wastewater treatment facilities to be energy efficient.

"Like the classroom, the waterfront is a dynamic environment, always changing, always adapting. I'm thrilled to join the board of the Waterfront Alliance and work with esteemed colleagues to revitalize shorelines and water bodies all around the region," said Mr. Balder.

"As we work to cultivate the working waterfront of New York City, and expand short sea shipping and barge service in and around New York Harbor, I'm honored to join the board of trustees of the Waterfront Alliance. Together, we'll work to strengthen the commercial port, and make the region healthier and more resilient," Mr. Stamatis said.

"Whether we're talking about the maritime industry or resilience or accessibility, it's all connected, and we all need to work together to ensure New York Harbor is the best it can be. I'm proud to join the Waterfront Alliance to contribute my ideas in support of this organization's great work," said Mr. Weeks.

"In 2012, after Hurricane Sandy, 80 percent of Hoboken was under water for almost a week. We successfully set Hoboken on a resilient path and now, with my fellow board members at the Waterfront Alliance, I'm ready to work towards greater resiliency and accessibility throughout the metropolitan region as we confront climate change and sea-level rise," said Ms. Zimmer.

The Waterfront Alliance inspires and effects resilient, revitalized, and accessible coastlines for all communities, and warmly welcomes Bob, Mike, Richard, and Dawn to its [board of trustees](#).

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