

December 3, 2008

Port of Seattle Tay Yoshitani Statement Regarding the Release of Michael McKay's Report to the Special Investigative Committee:

The Port of Seattle is committed to more efficient, transparent operations. This agenda is critical to keeping our operations competitive, delivering jobs for our region and building confidence with the citizens of King County.

We will immediately begin implementing the recommendations of Mr. McKay's independent report, and we will embrace this as an opportunity to build on our existing reform efforts.

As to the report's findings of civil fraud, I am deeply disappointed and saddened. Upon receiving the State Auditor's report last year, I stated that we would conduct a full investigation and if fraud was found, it would be dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

I stand by my word. Any staff member who has committed fraud will be appropriately disciplined and potentially terminated.

Now that I have received the final report, I am working with the Port Commission and with my senior team to determine the Port's full response. At next week's Commission meeting, I will provide a list of the actions I am taking in response to Mr. McKay's findings and recommendations. Many of these decisions – particularly those that involve personnel – are sensitive, have ramifications for ongoing Port operations, and must be made with some deliberation.

Other recommendations, such as compliance programs and procurement documentation, will build upon changes already underway. By establishing a Capital Development Division and hiring a Central Procurement Officer earlier this spring, the Port has made significant strides toward a streamlined, efficient, and – most important – legally compliant procurement system at the Port. Mr. McKay's report also brings new ideas, such as legal department enhancements, that will be added to this existing effort.

As an organization, we are also adapting to a changing global economy, responding to emerging competitive threats and working to maintain Seattle's status as a global gateway for trade. First and foremost, we work to create jobs and economic opportunity for King County, and we are redoubling our efforts to keep our region competitive in these difficult economic times.