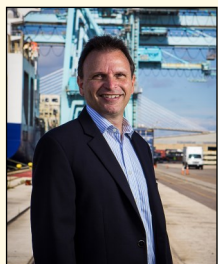




## Navigating the Future Amid Changes in Global Trade

**Robert Peek, JAXPORT Chief Commercial Officer**

**April 18, 2025**



The Jacksonville Port (JAXPORT) is intertwined with the city's economic and cultural life. This independent government agency, our connection to 140 international ports in 70 countries, plays a critical role in everyday

life. The **First Coast Tiger Bay Club** April Forum presents **Robert Peek**, JAXPORT's Chief Commercial Officer, to describe the port's role in the profound changes in global trade.

JAXPORT brings substantial economic and cultural benefits to the city but also poses certain environmental costs like its impact on the St. Johns River basin. Projects like the 2022 \$375 million river dredging to make the port more accessible for bigger cargo container ships negatively impact the marine life and the entire ecology of the river. Balancing these costs and benefits is necessary to understand JAXPORT's role in the city.

We welcome Robert Peek to walk us through his vision of the port's role and future developments, expansion plans, innovative technologies in cargo-handling equipment and advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI). What will be the possible

impacts of new tariffs and threats to global shipping lanes? How does the port interact with the local US Naval bases? Finally, what are the plans for the [\\$117 million project](#) to increase cargo ship clearance by raising to 225 feet the river crossing high-voltage power lines near the Blount Island terminal?

Robert Peek, the Chief Commercial Officer at JAXPORT, is uniquely qualified to address such questions. He leads the Port's business development efforts, overseeing marketing, sales and related initiatives to retain and attract business at JAXPORT; he also works closely with area economic development offices to support port-related relocation and expansion in Northeast Florida.

Robert has a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of North Florida; he also holds a Certification in Transportation and Logistics (CTL).

**More information next page**

### 2025 Tiger Bay Officers

Lanelle Philmon, President  
Doug Klippel, Vice President  
Jane Wytzka, Secretary  
Hazel Gillis, Treasurer

**FIRST COAST TIGER BAY CLUB** meets for lunch every month, except June, July and December, on the 3rd Friday at 11:30 at The River Club, 1 Independent Drive, 34th Floor. Cost for the event, which includes the wonderful buffet and parking, is \$30 for Members and \$35 for Non-Members.

**Reservations are required:** E-Mail: [fctigerbay@gmail.com](mailto:fctigerbay@gmail.com)

*The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political forum that promotes free and open debate but does not support any candidates or issues.*

*Dr. Stephen Baker, Newsletter Editor*

*Henry Cordes, Publisher*

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Robert is a former board member of the JAX Chamber Transportation and Logistics Council and the North Florida District Export Council; past president of Jacksonville Sister Cities Association; former Chair of the International Business and Marketing Career Academy at Ponte Vedra High School and current advisory board member of the Academy of Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Beachside High School. He also is a graduate of both Leadership Jacksonville

and Leadership St. Johns County. He volunteers for several public sector Boards and nonprofit organizations throughout Northeast Florida.

We look forward to seeing you on April 18<sup>th</sup> as we welcome Robert Peek to lead a dialogue on JAXPORT and its role in the community.

## **Future Tiger Bay Programs**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
May 16	Sen. Tracie Davis (D) Rep. Dean Black (R)	2025 Fl. Legislative Wrap Up
Aug 15	Sheriff T.K. Waters	Operations and Community Outreach
Sept 19	Dr. David Jaffee, University of North Flor- ida	Housing Issues in Jack- sonville