



PROMINENT RESTAURATEUR TAKES REINS OF NAPLES BIZ ASSN & PROPOSES CHANGES

(Owner of Michael's On Naples Lends 4 Decades of Biz Experience To New Position)

Naples Island will finally get its due if one local prominent businessman has his way, and judging by past successes, change is in store for Long Beach's most exclusive neighborhood. Michael Dene, owner of Michael's On Naples, Long Beach's #1 restaurant according to the Zagat Guide, has been elected president of the Naples Island Business Association (NIBA). In that capacity, he has announced aggressive plans to develop a promenade along 2nd Street for shopping and strolling, beautify the median along the thorough way between the two bridges, strengthen relations between business owners and Naples residents and boost membership in the association.

"I am honored and humbled to be elected president of the NIBA and look forward to working with the business and overall community to help this dynamic neighborhood reach its full potential," said Dene. "I also look forward to establishing forums for exploration of possible partnerships, synergies, referral opportunities, and joint projects between local businesses."

Also key to the new NIBA team is its vice president, Bart De Lio, an insurance executive. De Lio's experience with the Signal Hill Chamber of Commerce, where he is past president, and the Long Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce Charitable Foundation as well as his extensive involvement in various community endeavors uniquely qualifies him for his new position.

Kimberley Miller, Michael's human resources manager, will serve as secretary of the NIBA. A veteran of the food and beverage industry for 20 years, Miller brings expertise in bookkeeping, accounting, human resources and management to her new position with the NIBA and her close working relationship with Dene is expected to help the association realize its goals.