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Committee hires legislative advocate

The Joint Public Policy (JPP) Committee, a collaboration of the St. Tammany West and East Chambers of Commerce and the Northshore Business Council, has hired Dino Paternostro, President of LegisLink, to serve as the legislative advocate for government relations issues important to the St. Tammany business groups.

We welcome Dino, who has 16 years of solid experience at the State Capitol, working dozens of issues during his tenure, first with the Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans, a trade association for area hospitals, and more recently with Greater New Orleans, Inc., the regional economic alliance for the 10-parish area. He has been a registered lobbyist since 1994 and is a Fellow of the LSU Academy of Politics.

In January Dino launched LegisLink as a local government relations firm, focused on economic development, healthcare, and general business issues, at the state and federal levels. Responding to his new affiliation with the St. Tammany JPP, Dino states, “I am excited about the opportunity to serve the Northshore business groups in a professional capacity, especially given the growing population and business base. This parish is very well positioned to do great things for the foreseeable future and I am thrilled to be part of the team as we work through public policy issues with stakeholders across the parish.”

JPP chairman for 2010, Danny Schaus, states, “We are delighted that we have been able to garner the services of Mr. Paternostro for 2010 as our legislative advocate. With over twenty years of experience working closely with state government, we feel that he will be able to carry out our plan of work with confidence. In the next month, Mr. Paternostro will be meeting with our legislative delegation to discuss the plan of work and go over bills that will come from St. Tammany legislators.”

Dino earned his undergraduate degree in communications at Pepperdine University and master’s degree in public health at Tulane University. He is a native of New Orleans and is a long time resident of the region. His wife Kim works as a registered nurse and they have three children ages four to 22. Their home suffered significant damage in Hurricane Katrina and they quickly committed to rebuilding. Today they believe things are looking better than ever in their own neighborhood and throughout the entire region.

For more information on the Joint Public Policy Committee or the St. Tammany West Chamber, visit www.sttammanychamber.org or call 892-3216.

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