

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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JOSEPH M. TORSELLA RETURNS AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER *Will Lead Center Through Transition*

Philadelphia, PA (May 30, 2006) – The National Constitution Center Board of Trustees announced today that Joseph M. Torsella will return as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center. Torsella is replacing outgoing President Richard Stengel, who will step down on June 9, 2006 to assume his new position as Managing Editor of *Time* magazine. Torsella's appointment takes effect June 12, 2006.

Torsella, 42, led the Center from 1997 through 2003 and was the driving force behind its concept, construction and opening as a new tourism anchor on Independence Mall. In announcing Torsella's appointment to the Constitution Center staff, Board Chairman John C. Bogle explained that Torsella will lead the transition through the institution's search for a new chief executive.

"I could not be more delighted to announce the return of Joe Torsella to the National Constitution Center," Bogle said. "As our first President, Joe was the man who took the Constitution Center from the drawing board to its completion as one of America's great new cultural and educational institutions.

"We are extremely fortunate to have the benefit of his talent and experience," Bogle added, "And I look forward to the same kind of productive cooperation with Joe that we enjoyed during his previous tour of duty. His appointment will allow us to not miss a beat in operating the Center as we transition to new leadership in the months ahead."

"I couldn't be more pleased that Joe is returning to the National Constitution Center," said Stengel. "The Constitution Center has moved to the next level as a national institution, and Joe's experience and knowledge will help secure and advance our place as one of America's most vital and dynamic institutions."

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Bogle said that Torsella will lead the Center and work with the Board in the eventual nationwide search for a successor to Stengel, who announced his resignation on May 16. No timetable has been established for that search.

Since 2004, Torsella has served as President of 743 Ventures LLC, a private equity and strategic consulting firm. Over the last 18 months, he also has served as volunteer board Chairman of Philadelphia 2016, the bi-partisan regional group that is leading the effort to bring the Olympics to Philadelphia. That campaign earned a major boost recently with the announcement by the United States Olympic Committee that Philadelphia has moved onto the short list of five potential American sites that could compete for the Games in 2016. Torsella indicated that he will continue to serve as Chairman of Philadelphia 2016 during his return to the Constitution Center.

“It is an honor and a privilege to return to lead the Constitution Center during this period of transition,” Torsella said. “Rick Stengel has done a tremendous job making the Center a homebase for national civic discussion in America, and I look forward to working with an incredible Board of Trustees, a smart and very capable staff and a dedicated senior management team led by Phil Castellano, the Center’s chief operating officer, to build on that success.

“In many ways, this is a homecoming for me,” Torsella said, “and while it is unexpected, it is absolutely a pleasure to be back.”

Torsella, a former Rhodes Scholar, served as the youngest-ever Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning under then-Mayor Ed Rendell. The office helped formulate many of the initiatives that led the City’s nationally-acclaimed financial recovery, hailed by the *New York Times* as “the most stunning turnaround” in American municipal history.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia’s Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from

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Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, “Freedom Rising”.

The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and is a partner of NPR’s “Justice Talking,” a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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