



El Paso International Airport  
**International Trade  
Processing Center**

Foreign Trade Zone No. 68  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## Foreign - Trade Zone hosts 'Meet and Greet' for New Torchbearer

(April 27, 2017) – Vigorous glee and light came to the FTZ this week as new FTZ Manager, David R. Panko, was formally introduced to the trade community. The event contained a fusion of affirmations about the future, addressed regional trade goals, and served as a fresh point of access for facilitating success for our direct customers. FTZ No. 68 serves 19 direct customers, who serve 85 global firms, and is utterly elated to receive and forward goods from and to 54 countries. Household, automotive, and communication items are amongst the over 6,000 items stored and/or moved. Lightbulbs, car parts, and electronics routinely bought from local big box stores come from the Zone. *Fellow EPIA employees:* Did you also know that FTZ No. 68 and its 4 person staff are responsible for almost 3,500 jobs and maintains over 3.4 billion in trade? Additionally, we are truly fulfilled to state that FTZ direct customers have invested over \$1.3 million dollars in our community and account for over 2.1 million square feet of occupied real estate in El Paso.

Mr. Panko is a highly educated man who has maintained a distinguished career in the trade community, and as of late, served at Delphi regional headquarters, here in EPIA's own Butterfield Trail. Even though a frank and forthright nationwide quest was performed to search for someone who knew the copious amount of minute laws, regulations, and routines of FTZ's and who could lead; 'Dave' was found in EPIA's own backyard, not even 5 minutes away from FTZ! This shows the true endowment and gift that El Pasoans have. We are as qualified as any in America. When you see Dave, welcome him, get to know him. His background, volunteerism, and his travels would make your day!

The two whiz kid FTZ Coordinators, Rocio & Dennis, and their trusty Admin. Assistant Arcy, were joined by the trade community that included customers, custom brokers, and industrial real estate agents who maintain their livelihoods from the Zone. Also, numerous Customs and Border Protection heads attended the event to welcome Dave. Several firms who are currently being recruited to experience the advantages of being an FTZ customer attended as well. In a few months, corporations such as Cardinal Health, who outfit hospitals and medical offices globally, are set to join the Zone. The whirl and the hum of this small office of EPIA sparks the trade community and will continue to educate and grow! If you know of a firm that moves merchandise from Mexico or overseas and is looking to delete customs duties, refer them over!



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