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## **PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY RECEIVES \$1.8 MILLION SECURITY GRANT FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

*Goal Is to Safeguard Port and Region Against Terrorism in Aftermath of Sept. 11*

HOUSTON, June 17, 2002 – To help guard against future terrorist threats following the events of September 11, the Port of Houston Authority today received a \$1.8 million grant from the federal government to enhance the region's maritime security.

Port of Houston Authority Chairman James T. Edmonds said the Port will use the emergency funding to build a centralized security/emergency response command center linked to federal and local enforcement agencies and TranStar, and to conduct an in-depth assessment of security issues not covered in studies prepared pre-September 11. As additional needs are identified, the Port will apply for more federal funding.

“These and other improvements will enhance security not only for the Port of Houston but for this entire region,” Edmonds said. “Protecting this vital economic engine and the thousands of people who work or live near the Port is of the highest priority. We’re working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, Customs, the Maritime Administration, and local law enforcement agencies to make sure the Port of Houston remains safe.”

The U.S. Department of Transportation grant is part of \$92.3 million awarded to 51 U.S. ports and private industry. Congress provided funding for the grant program to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Security Administration, which is responsible for security in all modes of transportation.

### About the Port of Houston

The Port of Houston Authority owns and operates the public facilities located along the Port of Houston, a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities that handle more than 175

million short tons of freight worth more than \$60 billion annually. The Port Authority plays a vital role in ensuring navigation safety along the Houston Ship Channel, a key economic catalyst for the city since the Port of Houston first opened to deep-water vessels in 1914. The Port is the source of more than 200,000 direct and related jobs and generates about \$525 million annually in state and local taxes. The Port of Houston ranks first in the U.S. in foreign waterborne commerce and second in total tonnage. Each year, more than 7,000 vessels from around the world call at the Port.

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