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**PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY NAMES ARGENTINA M. JAMES
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

HOUSTON, June 24, 2002 – The Port of Houston Authority today announced the appointment of Argentina M. James as director of public affairs. James will oversee the Public Affairs Division, including the community relations, government relations and media relations departments.

“Argentina will be instrumental in helping to expand and enhance the Port’s community and business relationships throughout the Houston region. She’ll also play a vital role in managing the flow of information about Port plans and activities needed for accountability and engagement with residents throughout the Greater Houston area,” said H. Thomas Kornegay, executive director for the Port of Houston Authority.

Previously, James served as the vice president of community affairs and Community Reinvestment Act officer for Sterling Bank. She was responsible for developing and implementing the first comprehensive corporate community affairs strategic plan, chairing the corporate charitable contributions program, creating a community development task force, and assisting in the coordination of the bank’s first Women-Owned Business Initiative.

Prior to joining Sterling Bank, James was director of public affairs for Browning-Ferris Industries Inc. and was responsible for community affairs, public relations, business development, governmental affairs and constituency development. She also managed the company’s corporate and Houston marketplace Corporate Charitable Giving Program.

James is a member of numerous of local and regional organizations, including the Houston Credit Coalition, The Ensemble Theatre Board of Directors, for which she is president of the board, the Houston Area Black Journalism Society, and the Southwest Texas Junior Achievement Board of Directors. James earned a bachelor’s in journalism and a master’s degree in communications from Texas Southern University.

The Port of Houston Authority

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 designed for handling general cargo, containers, grain, other dry bulk materials, project and heavy lift cargo and other types of cargo. The Port of Houston Authority plays a vital role in ensuring navigation safety along the Houston Ship Channel, which has been instrumental in Houston's development as a center of international trade. The port is ranked first in the United States 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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