



**For Immediate Release**

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**PORT AUTHORITY COMMISSION PARTNERS WITH NASA FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES**

*Agenda items also address other security, Bayport project, and public affairs services*

HOUSTON, October 28, 2002 – The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) Commissioners approved several recommendations involving contract awards and general authorizations during its monthly meeting today. Chairman James T. Edmonds presided over the meeting, which was held at 12 noon at the Port of Houston Authority’s Executive Office Building, located at 111 East Loop North.

**Security Matters**

The commissioners approved a recommendation for the PHA to sign a memorandum of agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to find mutually beneficial ways to enhance security at PHA facilities and on the campus of NASA’s Johnson Space Center (JSC). The efforts will include reviewing features of a PHA security command center that would be modeled after JSC’s mission control and emergency operations centers. PHA and NASA will also explore opportunities to provide security backup to each other’s command stations through various technologies.

“We highly regard NASA’s extensive experience in designing and operating technologically advanced and highly effective control centers and strongly believe that our

collaboration is going to achieve stellar results,” stated Chairman Edmonds. “The spirit of cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies is crucial to ensuring the security of people in our organizations and in the surrounding communities,” he added. Edmonds also noted that the PHA and NASA partnership is another step toward exploring all possible ways to mitigate safety risks as the Port of Houston conducts its global trade and commerce activities.

A related recommendation approved by commissioners involved the awarding a professional service contract to CH2M Hill for a security risk assessment of the Port Authority’s terminals. Through the assessment, CH2M Hill is expected to make recommendations that address physical risk, entry/exit controls, building access controls, property protection, site safeguards, security plans, policies and procedures for protection strategies. The cost of the assessment will be covered by a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Transportation Security Administration and the Maritime Administration (MARAD). CH2M is currently performing a security risk assessment for the ports of Corpus Christi and Freeport.

#### Bayport Matters

The commissioners approved a recommendation to amend the contract with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. (LAN) for program management services related to Phase I development of the proposed Bayport Container and Cruise Terminal. Under terms of a contract awarded by the Port Commission in 2001, LAN’s services are to be provided over approximately a seven-year period with funding authorized on an annual basis. LAN would provide a new scope of services for the second year of the seven-year period beginning November 1, 2002. The new scope of work will include continued project management, completion of the roadway transportation study, design work for repair and maintenance buildings, and documentation for an information management system. By amending this contract, the PHA has canceled the outstanding funds on the existing purchase order totaling approximately \$1.2 million. Last month, Port Commissioners approved a recommendation to authorize the issuance of a RFQ prepared by LAN for professional engineering services related to improvements to Port Road.

The Bayport project remains under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is expected to issue a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) in March, 2003. Pending the FEIS and construction permit approvals, the PHA is committed to meeting ISO 14001 standards

upon the completion and opening of the Bayport facility. The Port of Houston Authority recently became the first U.S. port to achieve compliance with ISO 14001 standards through its environmental management systems (EMS) at Barbours Cut Container Terminal and the Central Maintenance Facility.

### Public Affairs

The Commissioners approved a recommendation to authorize amending a contract in the amount of up to \$150,000 for Gilbreath Communications to provide creative development and production oversight for television commercials related to the on-going “The Port Delivers” branding and public education/ awareness campaign, which is managed by the Port Authority’s public affairs division. Gilbreath, a qualified small business enterprise under the PHA’s Small Business Development Program (SBDP), is currently under contract to develop the print media advertisements for the campaign. The firm was originally awarded a \$286,000 contract for graphic design services related to the production of the Port Authority’s collateral publications.

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### ***The Port of Houston Authority***

*The Port of Houston Authority owns and operates the public facilities located along the Port of Houston, the 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 -- sixth largest in the world -- is ranked first in the United States in foreign waterborne tonnage and second in total tonnage. Each year, more than 6,600 vessels from around the world call at the port. For more information, please visit <http://www.portofhouston.com>.*