



For Immediate Release

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PORT AUTHORITY RESUMES PUBLIC TOURS ABOARD M/V SAM HOUSTON

PHA security alert reduced to yellow level

HOUSTON – The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) announced today that the free public tours of the Houston Ship Channel aboard the M/V Sam Houston will resume beginning Tuesday, April 22. Tours aboard the vessel were suspended last month in response to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s level orange national security alert. Last week, the department lowered the threat advisory level to yellow.

“We’re delighted to welcome the public back to the port,” stated Jim Edmonds, Chairman of the PHA Commission. “Everyone should have the opportunity to see the vast resources along the Houston Ship Channel aboard our tour vessel in a safe environment.”

Because of the elevated security alert status, the PHA will continue to monitor activities at critical locations and coordinate emergency plans with federal, state, and local authorities. Earlier this year, the PHA Commission authorized executive management to pay for emergency purchases in excess of \$25,000 when necessary to protect public health and safety, respond to a public calamity, and carry out security directives from agencies of the state or federal governments.

“The safety and security of our employees, visitors and the residents in communities surrounding the Port are of paramount concern at all times,” stated

Tom Kornegay, PHA Executive Director. “The Port Authority remains prepared to respond expediently to all threats in cooperation with all of our partners.”

M/V Sam Houston Rules

Passengers are required to make reservations at least 48 hours in advance by calling 713-670-2416, Mondays through Thursdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. An online reservation system is expected to be available as early as May 1 through the PHA’s website at www.portofhouston.com. All passengers must arrive and check-in at the M/V Sam Houston Pavilion at least 30 minutes prior to the vessel’s scheduled departure. A driver’s license or other current government-issued photo identification must be presented upon check-in. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Passengers’ personal belongings may be subject to searches in accordance with federal regulations. The PHA reserves the right to cancel a boat tour without advance notice and the right to refuse passage to board the vessel to any person for any reason at any time. Passengers may not bring food or beverages aboard the vessel. Bottled water and soft drinks will be served by vessel crew members during the tour.

M/V Sam Houston Tour Schedule

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Thursday	2:30 p.m. only
Friday	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Sunday	2:30 p.m. only
Holidays	Closed
September	Closed for Maintenance

Driving directions to M/V Sam Houston Pavilion

Leave East Loop 610 at Clinton Drive (exit # 28). Proceed West (right) on Clinton, pass McCarty to Gate 8. Enter Gate 8 and stay to the right. Security Guard and signs will direct you to the pavilion.

About the M/V Sam Houston

Named for the legendary military commander who led the fight for Texas independence from Mexico and later statehood, the M/V Sam Houston offers leisurely 90-minute round-trip cruises along the Houston Ship Channel. Embarking from the

port's Sam Houston Pavilion, visiting sightseers can enjoy passing views of international cargo vessels and operations at the port's Turning Basin Terminal. Measuring 95 feet in length and 24 feet in width, the boat carries a maximum capacity of 100 passengers with air-conditioned lounge seating and additional standing room on the boat's rear deck. The M/V Sam Houston has been operating as the Port Authority's public tour vessel since its inaugural voyage on August 30, 1958.

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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 and other dry bulk materials, project and heavy lift cargo, and other types of cargo. Each year, more than 6,600 vessels call at the port, which ranks first in the U.S. in foreign waterborne tonnage, second in overall total tonnage, and sixth largest in the world. The Port Authority plays a vital role in ensuring navigational safety along the Houston Ship Channel, which has been instrumental in Houston's development as a center of international trade. The Barbours Cut Container Terminal and Central Maintenance Facility are the first of any U.S. port facilities to develop and implement an innovative Environmental Management System that meets the rigorous standards of ISO 14001. Additionally, the port is an approved delivery point for Coffee "C" futures contracts traded on the New York Board of Trade's Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange. For more information, please visit www.portofhouston.com