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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Investigation determines bomb threat hoax

(HOUSTON) - A bomb threat against the Port of Houston has been officially determined to be a hoax and a male suspect is in FBI custody. Charges are pending.

The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) Police Department was notified about the threat earlier today. The threat did not indicate a specific port organization or location. According to standard port security protocol, the PHA Police notified the FBI, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Additionally, local law enforcement agencies increased patrols throughout the area as a precaution. No commercial vessel traffic was disrupted and no evacuations occurred. The PHA, however, canceled a regularly scheduled afternoon tour aboard the M/V Sam Houston. The tours will resume tomorrow.

Tom Kornegay, PHA executive director, stated, "This incident has been successfully resolved thanks to the coordinated efforts of local and federal law enforcement authorities. All precautionary measures were taken to ensure the safety and security of port employees, customers, and the surrounding communities."

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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