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LAWAL RE-APPOINTED TO PORT AUTHORITY COMMISSION

Prominent civic and business leader will serve third term as City of Houston appointee

HOUSTON – By unanimous vote, Houston City Council re-appointed Kase L. Lawal to the Port of Houston Authority (PHA) Commission. Initially appointed to the commission in June 1999, Lawal serves as its vice chairman and is a member of the board of Pilot Commissioners. PHA commissioners serve two-year terms without pay.

“We eagerly welcome Commissioner Lawal’s return,” said Jim Edmonds, PHA chairman. “His leadership and tenure on three Port Authority committees -- our international corporation, our small business program and our emerging markets task force -- have been exemplary to overall port issues. Kase works diligently to serve Houston, and his dedication to his constituents has been instrumental in helping maintain the Port’s economic vitality, particularly our international presence. We look forward to continuing our work with him.”

Lawal worked to organize the Port of Houston Authority International Corporation (POHAIC), which was created through state legislation enacted in 2001. POHAIC provides management consulting and technical assistance to foreign ports. Lawal also helped to establish PHA’s Small Business Development Program, which strives to provide Houston-area small businesses with contracts at the port.

“It is my honor to represent the city of Houston as a Port of Houston Authority commissioner,” Lawal said. “Our port is one of the finest in the world, and I remain a dedicated steward of our city. In one year, the Small Business Development Program has awarded \$6 million to Houston-area businesses, which provides economic strength to our economy.”

Previously, Lawal served as the chairman of Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown's transition committee on the PHA. He currently serves as chairman of Brown's advisory board on international affairs, representing Africa.

"For four years, Kase has been a real asset for the Port of Houston," Brown said. "His dedication to both the port and our city has attracted new business opportunities, both foreign and domestic. After one year as port commissioner, he was elevated to the vice chairman level, further evidence that the port recognized the potential of his leadership capabilities."

Professionally, Lawal is chairman and chief executive officer of CAMAC Holdings, Inc., with interests in oil and gas exploration, development, engineering and consulting. *Black Enterprise* magazine's annual survey of African-American-owned companies lists CAMAC as the largest in the United States. CAMAC has held that first place designation two consecutive years.

In 1999, Lawal was appointed by the Clinton Administration and re-appointed in 2001 by the Bush Administration to the United States Trade Advisory Committee on Africa. As a committee member, Lawal is responsible for helping to develop African trade policy.

"The Port of Houston Authority has benefited greatly from the leadership of Kase Lawal," said City Council member Mark Ellis. "Since his original appointment, Lawal has been instrumental in developing trade cooperatives and memorandum of friendship agreements with 20 global ports, including several in Africa and South America. These relationships strengthen Houston's status as a world-class port and bring vital import and export business to our port."

Lawal received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Texas Southern University and a masters degree in business administration in finance and marketing from Prairie View A&M University. He and his wife Eileen have two sons and one daughter.

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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