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DEWHURST DELIVERS ACCOLADE TO PORT AUTHORITY

East End Chamber of Commerce hosts 2nd annual luncheon salute to port

HOUSTON – Texas Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst today delivered the keynote address saluting the Port of Houston Authority (PHA) as the “Big Wheel that Delivers the Goods” during the luncheon hosted by the East End Chamber of Commerce. Proclamations from the City of Houston and Harris County also were presented to PHA during the event, which was attended by PHA Chairman Jim Edmonds, several port commissioners and PHA executive staff members.

The highlight of the program was the recognition of the first successful year of PHA’s Small Business Development Program. The SBDP was established to help PHA contractors make good faith efforts to include small business participation in eligible contracts. In its first year, the program has registered nearly 400 eligible small businesses and awarded \$6.3 million – or 35 percent – of non-exempt contracts to small firms. PHA executive director Tom Kornegay presented a plaque to PHA Commissioner Cheryl Thompson-Draper, who chairs the Small Business Advisory Council, and SBDP manager Gilda Ramirez.

“We couldn’t honor the Small Business Development Program without recognizing the persons who make it all work,” Kornegay stated. “Commissioner Draper and Gilda Ramirez are personally dedicated to assuring that small business is a major part of all port business, and we applaud their unwavering dedication.”

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About 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