

THE PORT REPORT



PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

AUGUST 2008

Ribbon Cutting Celebrates New, Improved 'Ribbon of Commerce'

About 100 local dignitaries turned out on August 14 to celebrate the renovation of venerable Barbours Cut Boulevard, which has served as a ribbon of commerce for the Houston area for more than 30 years.

Led by Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, the contingent assembled in the middle of the newly reconstructed, reinforced two-lane road for a ceremonial ribbon cutting that signified the end of a successful 10-month, \$16-million project originally scheduled for 18 months.



Local leaders and supporters ceremonially re-open Barbours Cut Blvd.

The project, spearheaded by Garcia, was a joint effort involving Precinct 2, the Port of Houston Authority and the Texas Department of Transportation. PHA has committed close to \$450,000 for landscaping the two-mile-long thoroughfare. "The early completion of the project is a strong testimony to the strength of collaboration in the name of commerce and I commend Commissioner Garcia for her leadership on this project," says PHA Chairman Jim Edmonds.

Panama Canal Authority Renews Partnership with PHA



Alberto Alemán Zubieta,
ACP Administrator/CEO.

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) and the Port of Houston Authority (PHA) have announced a continuation of their strategic alliance through a three-year renewal of their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). First signed in 2003, the partnership provides economic and trade benefits to both regions. The two entities will continue to conduct joint marketing, share information and bolster technological interchanges.

"The renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Port of Houston Authority illustrates our commitment to quality service and meeting the demands of an ever-changing and increasingly globalized maritime community," said ACP Administrator/CEO Alberto Alemán Zubieta.

As the Panama Canal continues to undergo its historic expansion, the ACP and the PHA look forward to increased growth of the "All-Water Route" (the route from Asia to the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts via the Panama Canal) – an economic driver for both the canal and the port.



PHA Welcomes Two New Managers



Gregory Rippey,
Chief of Police.

The Port of Houston Authority welcomes a new police chief and a risk manager. Gregory Rippey joins the Port Security and Emergency Operations Department as chief of police. Since 1996, he has been the regional director of security for Compass Bank. He also served as a Houston police officer for four years as well as a detective for the city of Alexandria, Va., police department and as a security director for Citicorp in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, with a bachelor's degree in education. Rippey reports to Port Security and Emergency Operations Manager Bill Crews.



Bruce Birdwell,
PHA Risk Manager.

Bruce Birdwell joins PHA as risk manager. He brings more than 27 years of risk management experience with Texas political subdivisions. He previously served as the first executive director of the State Office of Risk Management. Prior to that, Birdwell was risk manager for the city of San Antonio, the Richardson school district and the city of Irving. Birdwell is a graduate of the Governor's Executive Development Program at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas. He attended the United States Air Force Academy and UT. He has a bachelor's degree in business and has completed most of the coursework toward an MBA. Birdwell reports to PHA Director of Administration Jim Eldridge.

July Port Commission Highlights

At its July 22 meeting, the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority:

- Approved a construction contract to Metropolitan Landscape Management, Inc. for Bayport North Shore Landscaping for \$223,657.
- Approved a construction contract to Brooks Concrete, Inc. for Morgan's Point Sidewalks for \$68,096 to construct a sidewalk along Vinsonia Ave. in Morgan's Point.
- Approved a construction contract to Forde Construction Co., Inc. for Concrete Replacement at Wharf Nos. 23, 26 and 29, located near the Turning Basin Terminal, for \$2.03 million.
- Approved advertising and receipt of competitive sealed proposals for Bayport Terminal Maintenance and Repair and Building, Phase 1 for \$16 million to \$18.5 million.
- Approved advertising and receipt of competitive sealed proposals for Bayport Container Terminal Administration Building for \$8 million to \$10.5 million. The project includes a two-story building of approximately 30,000 square feet for Operations, Customs and future tenants.



PHA Commissioner James Fonteno, Jr. and PHA Executive Director Tom Kornegay.



Satellite image of TS Edouard.

Preparing for a Hurricane

When Tropical Storm Edouard was heading toward Houston in mid-August, with the potential of becoming a category one hurricane, the Port of Houston Authority was ready. Ships and cargo were secured, according to plan. Emergency staff stayed overnight since the original landfall was predicted for 4 a.m. PHA kept the public and its employees informed via a link on its Web site and an updated hotline message. Fortunately, the storm did no serious damage to the area.

"During a hurricane, we have to protect the PHA and its facilities and also follow U.S. Coast Guard regulations," says Bill Crews, PHA security & emergency operations manager. "Procedures were instituted – you can never tell when it will make a turn. It was a very good test of our procedures without the extra stress of a category three or four or five hurricane."

Summer Interns Thank PHA Commission

Commissioners welcomed the 18 college and graduate school participants in the authority's summer intern program, and the interns expressed their gratitude for the opportunity in a special presentation at the July 22 Commission meeting.

The Port of Houston Authority's internship program attracts an increasing number of students, who must be permanent Harris County residents. The interns work in 12 different divisions around the port ranging from maintenance to planning and environment and purchasing to engineering.

Interns represent Houston Community College, Long Island University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University-Galveston, Texas Southern University, Texas State University, the University of Houston, the University of Houston-Clear Lake, the University of Houston-Downtown and the University of New Hampshire.



2008 PHA Summer Interns pose with the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority along with the chairman and executive director.

CLEAN & GREEN PORT OF HOUSTON PROGRAM

Clean & Green finished the end of July with a grand total of almost 1,848 cubic yards of trash collected from Buffalo Bayou.

Imagine all that trash piled up in a basketball court. The pile would be more than 10.5 feet high!



Questions?

Please direct all inquiries and comments to:

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