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# THE PORT REPORT

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

JANUARY 2005

## COMMISSIONER THOMPSON-DRAPER REAPPOINTED



The Harris County Commissioners Court has reappointed Cheryl Thompson-Draper for a third term on the PHA Commission. She chairs the PHA's Cruise Task Force and serves as a member of the Pilot Task Force. She also has served as a member of the Pension Committee and has chaired the Small Business Committee, through which she was instrumental in the successful formation and implementation of PHA's Small Business Development Program.

Bringing years of award-winning business and community involvement experience to PHA, Commissioner Thompson-Draper is the retired president, CEO and chairman of Warren Electric Group, Ltd., the wholesale distributor of electrical, automation, telecommunications and utility products. Currently she is the owner, president and CEO of several businesses and is active in numerous community and charitable organizations.

## FEDERAL OFFICIALS, PRIVATE INDUSTRY DISCUSS SECURITY FUNDING

The PHA hosted a port security grants briefing and Q&A session on January 7 for managers of private sector port facilities located along the Houston Ship Channel. Congressman Gene Green and Department of Homeland Security Grant Program Manager Ken Concepcion led the discussion with U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port Richard Kaser, PHA Executive Director Tom Kornegay, and about 100 representatives from private companies that operate private port facilities along the ship channel. The meeting focused on guiding the attendees through the history and future of the federal port security funding programs and the grant application process.



*Congressman Green talks with Robert Miller of Ocean Ship Holdings (left) about security along the industrial Houston Ship Channel.*



## POLICE CHIEF HURTT TAKES PORT SECURITY TOUR

Just a few months into his new job as head of Houston's Police Department, Chief Harold Hurtt toured the port aboard the *M/V Sam Houston* and observed operations at the Port Coordination Center, the multi-million dollar high-tech communication and surveillance facility shared by the port's security partners. He was briefed by Ken Concepcion of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, PHA Police Chief Russell Whitmarsh, and other PHA staff members on critical issues related to technology, personnel coordination and federal grant funding.

## DECEMBER PORT COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Two RFOs will be issued for professional engineering services for Bayport Phase 1 container yard design as well as design services for an additional container wharf.
- HFP Acoustical Consultants received the top ranking for a potential contract award for the installation of a sound monitoring system for the Bayport project in adherence to the requirements of the Corps of Engineers' permit. Estimated cost range: \$250,000 to \$300,000.
- PHA will advertise and receive CSPs for a potential contract award for water system improvements at the Barbours Cut Container Terminal. Estimated cost range: \$140,000 to \$170,000.
- Gresham, Smith & Partners received the top ranking for a potential contract for professional environmental consulting services pertaining to port operations and the maritime industry. Estimated two-year cost range: \$250,000 to \$300,000.
- The City of La Porte will provide ambulance services at the Barbours Cut Terminal. Effective Jan. 1. Cost: \$27,996.
- The City of La Porte will provide fire suppression services at Barbours Cut Terminal. Effective Jan. 1. Cost: \$32,699.
- The Greater Houston Port Bureau, Inc. received a one-year contract for new business development, operational efficiency refinement, educational outreach, and regulatory and security requirement assistance. Cost: \$165,000.
- PBS&J received the top ranking to assist PHA in complying with the cultural resource regulations at the Beltway 8 Dredge Placement Area. Estimated contract cost range: \$100,000 to \$150,000.



## USFWS DESIGNATES HOUSTON FOR WILDLIFE TRADE



Importers and exporters dealing in wildlife and wildlife products can use the Port of Houston for their shipments, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced on January 5. The USFWS has offered limited inspection services in Houston since the early 1980s, but businesses using the port were required to obtain special permits and pay additional inspection fees. Houston's official designation as a wildlife trade port will improve service and reduce costs for businesses and individuals importing or exporting big game trophies, reptilian leather goods, scientific and museum specimens, live tropical fish, and wildlife curios. The system of designated ports and related declaration, inspection, and clearance requirements help ensure that wildlife trade complies with U.S. laws and international treaties that protect species worldwide.

## NUEVO LEON GOVERNOR GONZALEZ PRAISES PORT

In his meeting with PHA Chairman Jim Edmonds, Nuevo Leon Governor José Natividad-Gonzalez Paras commended the PHA for its trade development activities in Mexico, including the annual receptions hosted in Monterrey and Mexico City. Expressing interest in promoting closer cooperation and integration of economic and commercial activities between his state, other Mexican states, and Texas, Governor Gonzalez mentioned his interest in opening a regional trade office in Houston.



### QUESTIONS?

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