



AUGUST 2010

THE PORT REPORT

Port of Houston Authority

Good Vessel Traffic Safety Practices Spotlited as NTSB Officials Visit PHA

Recognizing the Port of Houston's national importance, National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Deborah A.P. Hersman discussed vessel traffic safety and toured the Houston Ship Channel during her August 19 visit to the Port of Houston Authority. She was accompanied by fellow NTSB member Dr. Earl F. Weener.

PHA Marine Department Manager Ruben Arredondo and Sr. Capt. Mike Usher facilitated a discussion addressing the NTSB leaders' interests in oversight of pilots, traffic control, risk assessment, contingency planning and response capabilities. Hersman and Weener also met Commander Rob Smith, chief of the prevention department for the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Houston/Galveston, and Capt. Thomas C. Pace, Jr., presiding officer of the Houston Pilots, who served as a guide during a tour aboard the *M/V Sam Houston*.

"Safe vessel operations — particularly in the vicinity of busy ports — have long been a concern of the Safety Board," Hersman said. "Having the opportunity to get a close-up look at the Port of Houston's waterways and facilities has provided us with a fuller picture of the complexity of major port operations."



From l. to r.: Sr. Capt. Mike Usher, PHA Marine Department; Capt. Thomas C. Pace, Jr., Houston Pilots; NTSB Chairwoman Deborah A.P. Hersman; NTSB member Dr. Earl F. Weener; Commander Rob Smith, U.S. Coast Guard, and Ruben Arredondo, manager, PHA Marine Department.



David Casebeer, PHA project manager; Art Janecka, Corps of Engineers; Bill Wise, Corps of Engineers; Col. Christopher Sallèse, Charlie Jenkins, PHA vice president, strategic planning and Erik Eriksson, PHA general counsel.

PHA Hosts Corps Commander Sallèse

In an effort to reinforce the vital relationship between the two organizations, Port of Houston Authority officials held an August 26 briefing for Colonel Christopher W. Sallèse, recently named District Engineer and Commanding Officer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District.

It is the federal government's role to maintain the Houston Ship Channel through the Corps of Engineers. The port authority serves as the federally designated partner working together with the Corps to keep the channel safe and navigable.

In addition, plans were discussed on how to maximize federal funding for the ship channel.

Clyde Fitzgerald Named 2010 Maritime Person of the Year at Annual Gala

In celebration of 50 years of service to the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO, Clyde Fitzgerald was honored by the Greater Houston Port Bureau and the Maritime Exchange of the West Gulf, Inc. at the annual maritime gala on August 21. Fitzgerald, president of the ILA's South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District, was named 2010 Maritime Person of the Year at the 81st annual event held at the Houston Club.

Fitzgerald began working as a longshoreman at age 16, following the example of his father and two uncles. Moving up in the ranks, in 1969, he was elected president of Local 1330, which eventually merged with Local 28. He continued to be re-elected as president for the next 20 years. Fitzgerald went on to serve as secretary-treasurer in 1991 for the ILA's South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District. He was unanimously elected president of the district in 2002 and re-elected to a third term during this year's 89th ILA convention in Savannah, Georgia.

Port Commission Chairman James T. Edmonds presented Fitzgerald with a proclamation, recognizing him for his distinguished and dedicated service to the ILA.

"Clyde Fitzgerald is the leader who has been looking out for his fellow ILA members while promoting solidarity for a half century," Edmonds said.



Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, honoree Clyde Fitzgerald, Port Commissioner Steve Phelps.

Port Commission Highlights

At its August 31 meeting, the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority:

- Approved a proposal to host the September 2014 American Association of Port Authorities Annual Conference in Houston, which will coincide with the Houston Ship Channel's 100th anniversary.
- Approved a \$512,502 construction contract to Sullivan Land Services, Ltd. for maintenance dredging at Bayport Wharf No. 3.



Port Commissioner James W. Fonteno, Jr. and CEO Alec G. Dreyer.

Burke Outlines PHA's Role in Historic District Revitalization



Port Commissioner Jimmy Burke

Among speakers at the August 26 San Jacinto Texas Historic District Corridor Standards Rollout, Port Commissioner Jimmy Burke highlighted the Port of Houston Authority's role in revitalizing the district. The event was hosted by the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region and held at the Pasadena Convention Center.

Also speaking were Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia; Ron Stone Jr., Stonefilms; Neely Nelson, Exxon Mobil; Lawrence Waldron, Volpak; and Gina Manlove, Manlove Marketing.

Burke cited partnership as the key to success in revitalizing the district and said the port authority is collaborating with Harris County, the alliance, the Battleship Texas Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on the Battleship Texas Project. Funded with surface transportation environment and planning (STEP) funds, the project will design and construct visitor amenities adjacent to the historic Battleship Texas.

The port authority will commit up to \$2 million on a project to construct a new docking facility at the San Jacinto Battleground site. The facility will accommodate the port authority's tour boat, the *M/V Sam Houston*, for parking and drop-off areas at the site.

Eco Bash, Clean & Green Focus on Litter-free Waterways

Two events in August showed that keeping trash out of Houston area waterways is an important part of environmental stewardship for Port Commissioner Elyse Lanier, the Port of Houston Authority, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, the city of Houston and several other public agencies and private organizations.



From l. to r.: Mike Garver, Buffalo Bayou Partnership board member; Frazier Wilson, director, social investment, Shell Oil Company; Port Commissioner Elyse Lanier; Harris County Precinct 6 Constable Victor Trevino; Hedy Wolpa, program director, Greater East End Management District; Mary Covington, STAR Drug Court Program, and Lisa Whitlock, PHA corporate communications director.

The August 7 Eco Bash on the Bayou brought out more than 200 volunteers, including 20 Port SupPORTers, who helped bag sand for hurricane preparedness and collected debris along the portion of Buffalo Bayou stretching from Sabine Promenade to University of Houston-Downtown.

Shell Oil Company and PHA were the anchoring partners of the August 13 celebration on Houston's East End marking the start of the fourth year of the Clean & Green Port of Houston Program. The ongoing public-private partnership uses community service workers from the Harris County judiciary system to clear floating debris from Buffalo Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel. Buffalo Bayou Partnership is the managing partner with support from the Greater East End Management District, Harris County Constable Precinct 6, and the Harris County Community Supervision and Correction Department.



Hosts of Eco Bash: Houston's First Lady Kathy Hubbard and Port Commissioner Elyse Lanier (a former First Lady).

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Questions?

Please direct all inquiries and comments to:

The Port of Houston Authority
Public Affairs Division
111 East Loop North
P.O. Box 2562
Houston, Texas 77252-2562

Phone: 713-670-2893
Fax: 713-670-2425
E-mail: fgriffin@poha.com
Web site: www.portofhouston.com

Port of Houston Authority Commission

James T. Edmonds, Chairman
Steve Phelps
James W. Fonteno, Jr.
Kase L. Lawal

Jimmy A. Burke
Janiece Longoria
Elyse Lanier

Chief Executive Officer Alec G. Dreyer

