

December 19, 2016

Re: Possession of Firearms on Port of Houston Authority Property

To Port of Houston Authority Employees, Tenants and Visitors:

Port of Houston Authority (Port Authority) police and security officials work together to safely protect and secure people and commerce within our terminals – and our Facility Security Plans (FSPs), which are required by law and approved by the United States Coast Guard, are important tools in maintaining the security of these facilities.

I want to notify you of the provisions in our FSPs regarding the possession of firearms within Port Authority facilities which go into effect on January 1, 2016:

No persons are allowed or authorized to possess firearms within the facility, with the exception of authorized law enforcement personnel on official duty and other persons lawfully permitted to carry a firearm. All firearms shall be concealed in the owner's vehicle unless carried by law enforcement personnel on official duty.

"Firearms" refers to handguns as well as all other firing instruments.

Under the FSP neither concealed nor open carry of firearms is permitted in Port Authority facilities, including buildings, docks, and other secured or restricted areas.

Please be aware that these provisions apply to Port Authority employees, tenants, dock workers, vendors, truck operators, and all others who enter Port Authority property, and will remain in effect until further notice.

Visitors selected for vehicle screening may be asked to declare to the security officer whether they have a firearm, and indicate its location for inspection purposes. In addition, Port Authority visitors are required to conceal firearms in their vehicle (such as in a gun vault or locking gun case in the vehicle's trunk) or in another closed storage area.

In the coming days the Port Authority will post signs at our gates and other locations to notify visitors of this FSP requirement.

These provisions do not limit the Port Authority's right to restrict or deny access to Port Authority property based on any other applicable law, regulations, or rule.

If you have any questions concerning these provisions, please call me at 713-670-3646.

Respectfully,

Mark A. Smith
Chief of Police