



**For Immediate Release**  
**March 25, 2024**

## **THOMAS JONES, JR. APPOINTED PORT HOUSTON COMMISSIONER**

*Highly respected business and civic leader embarks on two-year term*



*Photo caption: Houston Mayor John Whitmire (at podium) administers the Oath of Administration to Thomas Jones, Jr. to serve as Port Commissioner of the Port of Houston Authority. Commissioner Jones is flanked on stage by his wife, K'Netha Jones (center), and their daughter, Jessica.*

**HOUSTON** – On Friday, March 22, 2024, Houston Mayor John Whitmire administered the oath of office to Thomas Jones, Jr., to serve a two-year term as a Port Commissioner of the Port of Houston Authority. Commissioner Jones will attend his first Port Commission meeting in this capacity on Tuesday, March 26.

“Port Houston is the busiest waterway in the nation, and I am confident that my new appointment will improve City and Port working relations and help bolster Port Houston’s legacy as an economic hub and innovative waterway,” said Houston Mayor John Whitmire.

A host of local, state, and federal officials and business and community leaders were in attendance, showing their support for Commissioner Jones. State Senator Carol Alvarado delivered greetings, emphasizing the importance of the Houston Ship Channel to the state, and remarked to Mayor Whitmire that “Commissioner Jones was a smart appointment.”



Photo caption: Starting at left are Houston City Council member At-Large Sallie Alcorn, Houston City Council member District I Joaquin Martinez, Port Houston Commissioner Dean Corgey, Houston Mayor Pro-Tem Martha Castex-Tatum, Port Commissioner Thomas Jones, Jr., Port Commissioner Clyde Fitzgerald, Port Houston Chairman Ric Campo, and Port Commissioner Alan Robb is in the 2nd row. Council member Sallie Alcorn officially nominated Thomas Jones, Jr. for Port Houston Commissioner.

Commissioner Jones is a highly respected business and civic leader who leads and champions the causes of community development, higher education, and the arts. He is a founding partner of McConnellJones, LLP, believed to be the largest African American public accounting firm in the United States, and recognized as one of the largest CPA practices in the Southwestern U.S. Now retired, Commissioner Jones continues to serve the firm as a consultant.

“I am blessed and honored to have this opportunity to serve the people of Houston. The port is a critically important business and economic engine for Houston, Texas, and the nation,” Commissioner Jones said. “I am excited to help lead and guide Port Houston’s current and future plans for growth and expansion.”

Commissioner Jones has served as chairman, president, and director on many community boards, including among many others the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors board (past Chairman), Greater Houston Partnership, co-founder and Board President of Dominion Community Development Corporation (a church-based CDC), Houston Fund for Social Justice and Economic Equity (HEF), the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Foundation board, Jazz Houston, and Trees for Houston.

“As Mayor Pro Tem and chair of the City of Houston Economic Development committee, we must recognize the Port of Houston as the vital gateway for trade and commerce in our city and region,” said Houston Mayor Pro Tem Martha Tatum-Castex. “I look forward to collaborating with Commissioner Jones as we continue to invest in this critical asset while also fostering inclusivity and empowering women in our maritime economy.”



Photo Caption: Starting at left are Houston City Council member District 1 Joaquin Martinez, Houston Mayor Pro Tem Martha Castex-Tatum, State Representative Shawn Thierry (behind), Port Commissioner Thomas Jones, Jr. (center), Houston City Council member At-Large Sallie Alcorn (behind), Houston Mayor John Whitmire (in front), TX State Senator Carol Alvarado (behind) and State Representative Jarvis Johnson.

Commissioner Jones fills the seat of former Port Commissioner Cheryl Creuzot, who chose not to seek a third term.

“We welcome Mr. Jones to the Port Commission and look forward to the perspective he brings,” says Ric Campo, Chairman of the Port Commission and look forward to the perspective he brings,” says Ric Campo, Chairman of the Port Commission. “His strong background in finance coupled with his long history of commitment to philanthropic endeavors makes him well-prepared to help guide Port Houston to serve our region.”

The City of Houston-appointed Port Commissioners, as all others, serve for two-year terms without pay, and may serve a maximum of 12 years.

#### **About Port Houston**

For more than 100 years, Port Houston has owned and operated the public wharves and terminals along the Houston Ship Channel, including the area's largest breakbulk facility and two of the most efficient container terminals in the country. Port Houston is the advocate and a strategic leader for the Channel. The Houston Ship Channel complex and its more than 200 private and eight public terminals is the nation's largest port for waterborne tonnage and an essential economic engine for the Houston region, the state of Texas and the U.S. The Port of Houston supports the creation of nearly 1.5 million jobs in Texas and 3.37 million jobs nationwide, and economic activity totaling \$439 billion in Texas and \$906 billion in economic impact across the nation. For more information, visit the website at [PortHouston.com](http://PortHouston.com).

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