



PORT HOUSTON
THE INTERNATIONAL PORT OF TEXAS

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A Strong End of Year for Port Houston

Advocacy for the Busiest Channel in the Nation remains #1 Priority

HOUSTON – The Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority held its last regular meeting of the year today. Port Commission Chairman Ric Campo expressed his appreciation to the Port Commission, staff, and all stakeholders who together made it a successful year for the Port of Houston.

He said that Port Houston’s leadership’s primary focus would remain on advocacy efforts to secure federal authorization for the widening of the Houston Ship Channel. Campo shared that multiple meetings in Washington, D.C. are planned in the first quarter of 2020 to help obtain authorization for construction to widen and improve the busiest ship channel in the nation.

Executive Director Roger Guenther presented a preliminary year-end report to the Port Commission, noting that he would provide a full summary with complete results in January to the commission. Guenther shared that Port Houston had an exceptional year and expressed his appreciation also to the “people who work every day for making it a success.”

Guenther highlighted growth in containers has been substantial – Port Houston is the fastest-growing container port in North America.

“Business remains solid at Port Houston, with container volume expected to reach an all-time high of nearly three million TEU for 2019,” Guenther said. Port Houston also ranks No.1 in North America for general cargo, handling breakbulk, special project, and steel, and is expected to record four million tons of volume by year-end.

The Port Commission demonstrated more its commitment to support the best interests of the Houston Ship Channel. During the meeting, it approved awards totaling \$6.3 million towards infrastructure and communications to strengthen the emergency response to the Houston Ship Channel further.

One of the items approved included the purchase of a new fire engine. In 2018, the Port Authority’s maritime fire department responded to more than five hundred combined

fire, HazMat, and EMS calls. The new fire engine is a replacement for long-serving equipment and will take about nine months to be completed and enter service.

The commission also approved an award of \$5.75 million to Motorola Solutions for the construction of two radio towers. These new towers will allow Port Houston to become a System Partner on the Harris County Radio System and should enhance coverage throughout the region.

Port Houston's No. 1 priority remains to help acquire federal authorization to expand the Houston Ship Channel. The Port Commission authorized an additional \$400,000 in funding to support a design review of the channel project expansion program. These funds are in addition to a record of \$23 million already invested in this effort.

Finally, during the meeting, the Port Commission was presented with proposed updates to Port Houston's 2020 Strategic Plan.

The next regular Port Commission meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020.

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About Port Houston

For more than 100 years, Port Houston has owned and operated the public wharves and terminals of the greater Port of Houston – the nation's largest port for foreign waterborne tonnage and an essential economic engine for the Houston region, the state of Texas, and the nation. The Port of Houston supports the creation of 1.35 million jobs in Texas and 3.2 million jobs nationwide, and economic activity totaling \$339 billion in Texas – 20.6 percent of the state's total gross domestic product – and more than \$801.9 billion in economic impact across the nation. For more information, visit the website at PortHouston.com.