

# THE PORT REPORT



PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

JANUARY 2007

## Consuls Honored at PHA Reception



Pictured here are PHA Chairman Jim Edmonds, City of Houston Councilmember Carol Alvarado, Austria's Otmar Kolber and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels

The men and women who compose the nation's third-largest consular corps were honored by the Port of Houston Authority at a Dec. 18 reception attended by nearly 240 guests at Houston's Petroleum Club.

PHA Chairman Jim Edmonds recognized Houston's consular corps for its role in helping the city maintain its economic strength and for helping make Houston "a thriving international business center that generates good jobs and a good quality of life for our city's residents."

Harris County Judge Robert Eckels, Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia and City of Houston Councilmember Carol Alvarado were among the public officials who spoke at the event, as was Austria's Otmar Kolber, incoming dean of the Houston Consular Corps.

Houston is home to 86 consulates, third-largest in the nation behind Los Angeles and New York City, respectively.

## Thompson Named Assistant Police Chief

Veteran law enforcement officer and security specialist Gilbert Thompson has been named assistant chief of the Port of Houston Authority Police Department.

The 56-year-old Thompson is a Chicago native who has lived in Houston since 1979. He worked private security for two years before joining the Missouri City Police Department, where he spent eight years.

In 1989, he launched Thompson Security, his own private security firm, and ran it for 12 years. He joined the Port Police in August 2006. Thompson holds a master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Houston and a bachelor's of science degree in corrections from Chicago State University.



PHA Assistant Police Chief Gilbert Thompson



PHA administrative assistant Kelly Day was one of 43 who donated during the December blood drive.

## December Blood Drive Sets Record for Year

Port of Houston Authority employees, tenants, vendors, contractors and retirees donated a total of 43 units of blood in the PHA December blood drive, bringing the yearly total of donations to a record 243 units. The 2006 total exceeds the previous year's total by 23 units.

A total of 33 potential donors attempted to give blood at the PHA Executive Building and 22, including four who donated red cells, were successful. There was one first-time donor.

At Barbours Cut Terminal, 21 units were collected from the 26 employees who attempted to donate. The group also included one first-time donor.

# December Port Commission Highlights

At its December meeting, the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority:

- Approved a \$1.298 million professional services contract for Sparks-Barlow-Barnett Inc. to provide design and construction work associated with the expansion of Port Road
- Approved an \$84,912 contract amendment with Zachry Construction Corporation for work at the Bayport Terminal container yard
- Approved a \$64,000 contract with AT&T for a temporary tele-communications link between Bayport Container Terminal, Barbours Cut Terminal and the executive offices
- Approved a contract amendment of \$1.26 million for BAE Systems Integration Inc. related to Bayport Terminal security and telecommunication system integration
- Approved a staff request to award five one-year contracts for state government legislative consulting services in the amounts of \$75,600 each and a one-year contract for \$205,000 for federal government legislative consulting services
- Authorized advertisement and receipt of CSPs for an access control system at the North Turning Basin restricted area truck entrance/exit gate, Gate 8 at Turning Basin and the entrance to East Industrial Park Terminal. The project is expected to cost between \$2.9 million and \$3.2 million
- Approved media advertising campaign contracts, in excess of \$25,000 each, with 17 Houston area broadcast and print media outlets for the 2007 media campaign year



PHA Commissioner  
James W. Fonteno, Jr.

## Gement Named PHA Volunteer of the Year



PHA Executive Director Tom Kornegay,  
Dick Gement and PHA Chairman  
Jim Edmonds

Giving unselfishly of his time, primarily on three community projects, has earned the Port of Houston Authority Systems and Programming Manager Dick Gement the distinction of being named PHA's Volunteer of the Year.

Gement recorded 50 volunteer hours in 2006 – tirelessly working on the River, Lakes Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash, the BP MS 150 and the Pan Jam Festival. Barbours Cut Terminal Planning Manager Tom Heidt also had a productive year with 42 hours donated, primarily to the MS 150 project.

"The commitments Dick and all our PHA volunteers made in 2006 speak volumes about their desire to help make our community a better place and their role as goodwill ambassadors for the port authority," says PHA Community Relations Manager Grace Moolchan. "We are grateful to all of them for the hard work they do and for the precious hours they devote." Gement has worked 22 years for the port authority.

## Bayport Updates Just a Mouse Click Away

As the Bayport Container Terminal becomes operational, members of the community can stay in tune with its progress, related road and transportation projects and the history of the state-of-the-art terminal through the Port of Houston's Web site.

Simply log on to <http://portofhouston.com/BayportTerminalProgress/index.html>, bookmark it and visit it regularly to get up-to-date information about Bayport. Port of Houston Authority officials are working diligently with Harris County and the Texas Department of Transportation on planned road projects for the Bayport area. News of the Web site addition was released through 3,500 postcard mail-outs and at a January 4 open house meeting in the Bay Area Community Center.



### Questions?

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### Port of Houston Authority Commission

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