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## **Port Houston: 2021 State of the Port**

*Chairman credits the Port's People and Partners for Historic Success*

HOUSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE) -- On Thursday, Port Houston Chairman Ric Campo delivered the 2021 State of the Port address to a sold-out audience, which observed COVID-19 protocols at the Greater Houston Partnership's first in-person event since the start of the pandemic.



Chairman Campo delivers the 2021 State of the Port Address. (Photo:Business Wire)

"The state of the Port is amazing," Chairman Campo declared. His address emphasized the extraordinary efforts of people and partnerships working together through extraordinary times.

"Lead, follow, or get out of the way – that's how Houston gets it done," said the Chairman, as he echoed others' sentiments regarding the remarkable acceleration of the billion-dollar expansion and widening of the Houston Ship Channel.

"This is the fastest a project of this magnitude has ever moved in America, and it's because of the people and partners who are getting it done, by working and doing the heavy lifting together," he said of the waterway expansion and deepening effort called Project 11.

Ranked as the #1 busiest port in the nation and known as the "Energy Capital of the World," the Port of Houston's success can be attributed to a diversity of cargoes and balance of imports and exports, Chairman Campo said.

"Ultimately, however, people make the difference in the success of the Port of Houston," he said as he saluted the continued commitment of the Port's people, partners, and channel users.

In his remarks, he spoke of the remarkable spirit of collaboration and cooperation, people working together on the frontlines and behind the scenes under extraordinary circumstances to ensure the continued successful delivery of cargo, product, and supplies, and of helping to sustain a vital source of economic activity and jobs for the region, state of Texas, and the nation.

However, Chairman Campo acknowledged that Port Houston public facilities are not immune to pandemic-induced strains on the global supply chain, but Port Houston staff and partners continue to work to keep freight moving to handle the historic surge in import container cargo.

Looking to the future and Port Houston's commitment to reinvestment, Chairman Campo further highlighted the progress of the channel expansion and deepening program, adding that he looks forward to Port Commission consideration next week of the first Project 11 dredging contract. He shared that Port Houston fully expects the winning proposal to balance environmental, economic, and social issues in the best way for the entire community.

The Chairman also spotlighted Port Houston's 100% renewable asset-backed electricity program, the first such program by a seaport in the United States. Efforts like this and others have resulted in a transformative 55% reduction in the carbon emissions footprint of Port Houston's public terminals.

Chairman Campo proudly underscored the Port Commission's adoption of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Statement and Business Equity Program, expanding on Port Houston's successful Small Business Development Program to target minority and women-owned business enterprises participating in procurement and contracting processes. "Building capacity is also about diversity," he said. "If we do well, our community should do well too."



Joining Port Houston Chairman Campo (far right) on the stage are (from the far left): Port Houston Commissioner Clyde Fitzgerald; U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port Jason Smith, Port Houston Commissioners Cheryl Creuzot, and Dean Corgy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District Deputy District Engineer Byron D. Williams, PMP; Port Commissioner Wendy Montoya Cloonan, Greater Houston Partnership President & CEO Bob Harvey; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District Commander Col. Timothy R. Vail; and Port Houston Executive Director Roger Guenther. (Photo: Business Wire)

Chairman Campo's profound message stressed Port Houston's responsibility for creating a long-term legacy of economic impact, by creating jobs and investing in infrastructure to ensure competitive opportunities for the region and state of Texas and the nation.

"Ultimately, it's about taking care of people working every day, making sure they have the support and resources to feed their families," Chairman Campo said.

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**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 and fastest-growing 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 public and private terminals, collectively known as the Port of Houston, 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 1.35 million jobs in Texas and 3.2 million jobs nationwide, and economic activity totaling \$339 billion in Texas – 20.6 percent of Texas' total gross domestic product (GDP) – and \$801.9 billion in economic impact across the nation. For more information, visit the website at [www.PortHouston.com](http://www.PortHouston.com)