



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **PORT OF GALVESTON MEETS WITH USERS OF CRUISE FACILITIES**

Galveston, Texas...August 11, 2006...The Port of Galveston announces meetings with users of port facilities to resolve the issue of past due charges for Port Access Fees based primarily on trip charges. At the June 26, 2006 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves, the Board approved a resolution to collect the overdue fees. In addition, they directed Port staff to take a more proactive approach in dealing with the shuttle operators and hotels and motels that had not paid these fees.

Since the meeting, two of the three parking lots that provide shuttle service to the cruise terminals have met with the Port of Galveston. A proposed pay schedule was discussed with each of the shuttle services based upon recorded trips onto Port property. Those private operators are EZ Cruise Parking and Lighthouse Parking.

Also, Galveston Limousine Service met with Port staff to resolve discrepancies in their access fee charges. Access charges were negotiated and payment made. This transportation company provides scheduled and private shuttle services between the cruise terminals and the airports and private parking lots and other entities.

Hotels and motels on Galveston Island also use Port facilities when providing shuttle services between their properties and cruise terminals. Of the approximately 12 hotel/motel properties that transport passengers to the cruise

terminals, one property, the Commodore On The Beach, has consistently paid their access fees. There have been no other payments based trip charges from other properties.

Transportation provider Coach USA has worked with the Port since the commencement of the Access Fee Program and their payments are up to date. This bus line understands the access process as it works with seaport and airport terminals throughout the U.S. to provide passenger delivery-and-pickup services.

Port Access Fees are standard procedures in the United States. Shuttle and other transportation services are charged access fees for airports and cruise terminals at seaports nation-wide.

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POG-2006-4