

## **Port Secures more than \$7.8M in Funding for Improvements**

December 23, 2013

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Riviera Beach, Fla. – The Port of Palm Beach has announced that it has been approved for \$7,876,000 in funding toward its capital improvement plans.

Included in the funding is:

- \$4.6 million for the expansion and infrastructure improvement of Berth 17.

The project will include infrastructure improvements such as a heavy-duty expanded apron and a heavy-duty Ro/Ro (roll-on/roll-off ramp) to the Port's Berth 17, as well as upland improvements, including a load-bearing staging area for cargo on the land adjacent to the berth. The total cost of the project is \$9.2 million and requires a 50 percent match of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) funds by the Port.

- \$275,000 for additional refrigerated container (reefer) plugs.

The Port currently has 100 plugs for refrigerated cargo containers. With this grant from the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development (FSTED) Council, the Port of Palm Beach will add 80 additional reefer plugs to its facility. The \$550,000 project cost requires a 50 percent match in Port funds.

- \$3 million for the expansion and infrastructure improvements of Berth 1.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has approved a \$3 million grant to be made available in fiscal year 2019 for improvements to Berth 1.

While the \$6 million project has been approved and granted funding from FDOT, the scope of the work must be determined by Port Staff and approved by the Port of Palm Beach Board of Commissioners. The FDOT grant requires a 50 percent match by the Port.

The funds secured in fiscal year 2013 are in addition to the millions of dollars that the Port secured for the \$26 million expansion and improvement of the Slip 3 project which is fully funded and well underway.

“Improving our infrastructure allows the Port of Palm Beach to maintain our position as an economic engine for the citizens of the Port of Palm Beach District,” said Chairman of the Port of Palm Beach Board of Commissioners George E. Mastic.

“The Port must continue to identify and secure any possible funding to contribute to the stability and growth of our current tenants' business while also enabling us to market to new businesses,” said Port of Palm Beach Executive Director, Manuel Almira. “We have to accommodate the needs of the industry to capture our share of the business.”

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*The Port of Palm Beach District was established in 1915 as an independent special taxing district, a subdivision of the State of Florida. The Port has not collected taxes in 39 years. Over \$4 billion worth of commodities, two million tons of diversified cargoes and more than 341,000 passengers move through the Port annually. The Port is committed to the highest levels of service and to fiscal and environmental responsibility while ensuring the utmost safety and security.*

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