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PORT OF PALM BEACH APPRECIATES \$1.1M SECURITY FUNDING BOOST

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – Port of Palm Beach officials are pleased that efforts of U.S. Rep. E. Clay Shaw Jr., R-Fla., and others have resulted in federal funding for a coordinated control center that will further enhance security access controls at the nation’s 18th busiest container port.

The approximately \$1.1m that Port of Palm Beach anticipates receiving for the coordinated control center is part of \$9.98 million in anti-terror funds that Shaw led efforts to secure from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The newly created UASI separates Palm Beach and Broward counties from Miami-Dade County for such funding purposes.

“Congressman Shaw’s efforts for more than two and a half years have certainly yielded welcome news for our port and our county,” George E. Mastics, chairman of the Port of Palm Beach District Board of Commissioners, said today. “We most sincerely appreciate the hard work of Congressman Shaw, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, Port of Palm Beach security officials Ken Hern and Carl Baker and all of those who have helped bring this much-needed funding to fruition.”

Without federal funding assistance, Port of Palm Beach has been joined by its users in paying for \$4 million in security-related enhancements at the port since the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, as well as funding some \$2.1 million a year in mandatory security-related operations costs.

“Port of Palm Beach has been recognized by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as one of the state’s most secure ports,” said Port of Palm Beach Executive Director Lori A. Baer, “and this important funding recognition by the federal government significantly furthers our ability to ensure safety and security.”

Port of Palm Beach is a trade hub for the Caribbean region and ranks among the nation’s 20 busiest container ports while also handling numerous bulk and breakbulk cargoes. The port, governed by a board of five elected commissioners, annually contributes \$260 million to the regional economy while directly and indirectly bringing some 3,000 jobs.

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