

May 10, 2019

NOTICE OF MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE
PORTS OF HARRIS COUNTY

In accordance with the official practice of the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Harris County, there is attached hereto a copy of the Agenda of the meeting of the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Harris County to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. The Pilot Board will meet at 9:15 a.m., or thereafter, immediately following the adjournment of the regular Port Commission meeting, at the Port of Houston Authority Executive Office Building, Fourth Floor Boardroom, 111 East Loop North, Houston, Texas 77029, with the Executive Session convening following the adjournment of the Public Session and the Public Session reconvening following the adjournment of the Executive Session, to consider any items from the Executive Session that may require action and conduct any further business.

BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS
PORTS OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS



SECRETARY

Tuesday, May 21, 2019
BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS

9:15 a.m.
111 East Loop North
Houston, TX 77029
Fourth Floor Boardroom

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Special Board of Pilot Commissioners Public Meeting - April 8, 2019
2. Board of Pilot Commissioners Public Meeting - April 23, 2019

D. APPEARANCES

1. Public Comment

E. STAFF REPORTS

F. PILOT MATTERS

Staff Report – Selected agenda items – Marcus Woodring, Chief Port Security and Emergency Operations Officer

1. Consideration and possible action to amend Section 15(I) of the Rules and Regulations Governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel between the Galveston Bar and Turning Basin.
2. Review and possible action to rescind the establishment of a Houston Ship Channel traffic management group.
3. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain William A. Ewing III.
4. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Blakeley K. Morgan.
5. Recommendation for renewal of Branch Pilot Commission for the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bar: Captain Michael T. Riggle.

G. RECESS OPEN MEETINGS AND CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Consultation with Attorneys (Section 551.071, Texas Open Meetings Act), including consultation regarding the powers and duties of the Board of Pilot Commissioners
2. Adjourn Executive Session

H. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

1. Announce any items from Executive Session requiring Pilot Board action

I. ADJOURN MEETING

1. Next Meeting Requested - June 25, 2019
2. Adjourn Pilot Board Meeting

F. PILOT MATTERS

Subject	1. Consideration and possible action to amend Section 15(I) of the Rules and Regulations Governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel between the Galveston Bar and Turning Basin.
Meeting	May 21, 2019 - BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR HARRIS COUNTY PORTS
Access	Public
Type	Action
Recommended Action	The Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports (the Pilot Board), at its May 21, 2019 meeting, consider and take possible action to amend Section 15(I) of the Rules and Regulations Governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel between the Galveston Bar and Turning Basin, and further authorize the Secretary of the Pilot Board to do any and all things in his opinion reasonable or necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Category:
Pilot Matters

Department:
Pilot Administration

Staff Contact:
Erik Eriksson

Background:

Last summer, the Houston Pilots announced several protocols for handling vessels over 1,100 feet in length. Those measures limited these larger ships to daylight passage and one-way traffic, beginning north from Buoy 18, where the channel narrows to 530 feet at the intracoastal waterway.

The Pilot Board, at its October 30, 2018 meeting, adopted Section 15(I) of the Rules and Regulations Governing Pilots and Pilotage on the Houston Ship Channel Between the Galveston Bar and Turning Basin, to address circumstances that arose in connection with those protocols. In particular, the Pilot Board added the subsection to improve advance stakeholder notification of changes to Houston Pilot working rules and navigation safety guidelines, which has been largely handled by the Houston Pilots in the past.

Section 15(I) currently provides the following, in summary:

- The Houston Pilots are required to notify the Pilot Board twenty days in advance of the enactment or amendment of policies, rules, etc. applicable to them or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Pilot Board, to allow the Pilot Board to review and possibly act on them.
- However, the Houston Pilots may also immediately adopt or amend navigation safety guidelines, if necessary:
 - Because of changed circumstances to maintain navigational safety; or
 - To comply with directives issued by federal or state agencies.

Staff Evaluation/Justification:

The Pilot Board may wish to deliberate and act regarding a proposed amendment to Section 15(I) in the form attached as Exhibit "A."

Transportation Code Sec. 66.020(a) provides in part that the Pilot Board "shall give at least 10 days' notice as provided by this section before the board adopts a rule[,] and Section 66.020(b) goes on to provide that the board "shall post the notice and a copy of the proposed rule or change at the board office for public inspection." Such required measures were taken with respect to this proposed action to amend Section 15(I) on May 10, 2019.

Exhibit "A"

The Houston Pilots Association shall provide the Secretary of the Pilot Board with its current navigation safety guidelines, pilot roster, training requirements, project guidelines, and tug matrix applicable to Pilots or the ports and navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the Pilot Board (collectively, "Pilot Policies"), within three (3) days following the request of the Pilot Board or Secretary. The Houston Pilots Association shall give at least twenty (20) days written notice to the Secretary of the Pilot Board before any amendment to the navigation safety guidelines goes into effect and provide a copy of amended navigation safety guidelines along with the basis for the amendment with such notice. The Pilot Board reserves the right to review and adopt rules and issue orders with respect to the regulation of pilots in accordance with Section 66.017 of the Act.

When evaluating new classes or types of vessels that may require significant restrictions on other traffic, the Houston Pilot Association shall provide notice of and periodic updates regarding these evaluations to the Pilot Board.