

**Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports  
Pilot Board Investigation and Recommendation Committee  
Hearing**

**June 24, 2015**

A hearing of the Pilot Board Investigation and Recommendation Committee (the “PBIRC”) was convened on Wednesday June 24, 2015, at the Port of Houston Authority Executive Offices, Fourth Floor Boardroom, at 111 East Loop North, Houston, Texas 77029. The following members, USCG advisory members, and staff were present:

Captain Marcus Woodring, Chairman  
Captain Michael Morris  
Captain Sean Arbogast  
Captain Michael Curtiss  
Captain Richard Ford  
Captain David Foret  
Paul Caruselle  
Tom Marian

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Trebilcock – Marine Safety Unit Texas City  
Chief Petty Officer Michael Oyler – Marine Safety Unit Texas City

David McNamara, Pilot Board Counsel  
Captain Mike Usher, Pilot Board Compliance Coordinator

Chairman Woodring called the meeting to order to hear the following matter:

*M/V GENIUS STAR VII* collision with Kirby barge 27720 being pushed by *UTV GARY REED* on March 14, 2014, in the Houston Ship Channel.

1. **Summary of PBIRC Hearing**

- a. Statements by PBIRC members, staff, and the USCG advisory members identifying themselves and describing their maritime expertise.
- b. Statement by Chairman Woodring as to the conduct of the hearing.
- c. Introduction of Incident Materials gathered by Captain Usher regarding of the above-referenced incident.
- d. Introduction of submissions of Houston Branch Pilot Captain Holly Cooper, *M/V GENIUS STAR VII* pilot, Houston Branch Pilot Captain Phillips, *M/T STOLT INNOVATION* pilot.
- e. Introduction of expert witness testimony of Houston Branch Pilot Captain Hugh Guidry, on behalf of Captain Phillips.

June 24, 2015

- f. Introduction of video presentation by Houston Branch Pilot Captain David Rodrigues.
  - g. Testimony by, and questions put to, Captain Cooper, Captain Phillips and Captain Guidry.
  - h. Concluding statements by Mr. Brown and Mr. Letourneau.
  - i. Executive Session.
  - j. Announcement by Chairman Woodring of Proposed Findings and Recommendations and description of appeal rights.
2. **Proposed Findings** Following its deliberations, by a vote of 8-0, the PBIRC proposes the following findings:
- a. That Captain Cooper took evasive action to avoid a potentially serious marine casualty and is verbally commended for her actions.
  - b. That Captain Phillips operated within normal parameters for the ship characteristics and conditions.
3. **Proposed Recommendations** Following its deliberations, by a vote of 8-0, the PBIRC proposes the following recommendations to the Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports:
- a. Take no action and close to file.

Hearing adjourned 10:04