

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

May 31, 2017

A hearing of the Pilot Board Investigation and Recommendation Committee (the "PBIRC") was convened on May 31, 2017, 09:04, at the Port of Houston Authority Executive Offices, Fourth Floor Boardroom, at 111 East Loop North Houston, Texas 77029. The following members, U.S. Coast Guard ("USCG") personnel, and staff were present:

Captain Marcus Woodring, Chairman
Captain Michael Curtiss
Paul Caruselle
Captain Richard Ford
Captain David Foret
Tom Marian
Captain Richard Russell
Captain Robert Shearon
Mark Bottiglieri, USCG Branch Chief Port State Control Sector Houston-Galveston
Erik Eriksson, Board of Pilot Commissioners for Harris County Ports (the "Pilot Board")
General Counsel
Captain M. Tyler Gavis, PBIRC Compliance Coordinator

Chairman Woodring called the hearing to order to hear the following matters:

M/V GLOBAL LEADER allision with City Dock #27 fender on December 23, 2016, in the Houston Ship Channel.

M/T STOLT INVENTION allision with VOPAK Dock #4 on February 15, 2017, in the Houston Ship Channel.

1. **Summary of Hearing re M/V GLOBAL LEADER allision with City Dock #27 fender on December 23, 2016, in the Houston Ship Channel**
 - a. Statements by PBIRC members, staff, and USCG advisory members identifying themselves and describing their maritime expertise.
 - b. Statement by Chairman Woodring as to the conduct of the hearing.
 - c. Introduction as Exhibit "A" of Incident Materials gathered by Captain Gavis regarding the above-referenced incident M/V GLOBAL LEADER allision with City Dock #27 fender on December 23, 2016, in the Houston Ship Channel.
 - d. Introduction as Exhibit "B" of submission of Captain Jonathan Samuell.
 - e. Testimony by, and questions put to Captain Samuell.
 - f. Concluding statement by Pilot counsel, Mr. Jim Brown.
 - g. Executive Session.

- h. Announcement by Chairman Woodring of Proposed Findings and Recommendations and description of appeal rights.
2. **Proposed Findings.** Following its deliberations, by a vote of 6-1 (with Chairman Woodring recusing), the PBIRC proposed the following findings:

Captain Samuel did not maintain adequate situational awareness, resulting in an allision with City Dock # 27, with the following contributing factors noted:

- 1) Poor communications between the bridge and stern lookouts onboard the M/V GLOBAL LEADER.
 - 2) Delays in engine response time.
3. **Proposed Recommendations.** Following its deliberations, by a vote of 6-1 (with Chairman Woodring recusing), the PBIRC proposed the following recommendations to the Pilot Board:

Take no action (except as provided below) and close matter to file.

Captain Samuel is directed to share his lessons learned, and corrective actions, with the other Pilots of the Houston Pilots Association.

The PBIRC appreciated that Captain Samuel has already begun implementing his lessons learned from this matter.

4. **Hearing Break**

5. **Hearing Reconvened**

6. **Summary of Hearing re M/T STOLT INVENTION allision with VOPAK Dock # 4 on February 15, 2017, in the Houston Ship Channel**

- a. Statements by PBIRC members, staff, and USCG advisory members identifying themselves and describing their maritime expertise.
- b. Statement by Chairman Woodring as to the conduct of the hearing.
- c. Introduction as Exhibit "A" of Incident Materials gathered by Captain Gavis regarding the above-referenced incident M/T STOLT INVENTION allision with VOPAK Dock #4 on February 15, 2017, in the Houston Ship Channel.
- d. Introduction as Exhibit "B" of submission of Captain Richard Teeter.
- e. Testimony by, and questions put to Captain Teeter.
- f. Concluding statement by Pilot counsel, Mr. Jim Brown.

- g. Executive Session
 - h. Announcement by Chairman Woodring of Proposed Findings and Recommendations and description of appeal rights.
7. **Proposed Findings.** Following its deliberations, by a vote of 8-0, the PBIRC proposed the following findings:

Due to the lack of notification that the tug HUNTER M was unable to “make fast” on the port quarter in a timely manner, Captain Teeter allided with VOPAK Dock #4.

8. **Proposed Recommendations** Following its deliberations, by a vote of 8-0, the PBIRC proposed the following recommendations to the Pilot Board:

Take no action (except as provided below) and close matter to file.

Captain Teeter is directed to work with the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee to develop a training module for the Blue Water/Brown Water Symposium focusing on assist tug and Pilot expectations, communications, and interactions.



Captain Marcus Woodring, Chairman