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Inside Port Houston's new headquarters in Midway's East River development (PHOTOS)



Image: Samantha Christina/HBJ

The Port of Houston Authority is moving into its new headquarters at Midway's East River development.

SAMANTHA CHRISTINO/HBJ



By [Naomi Klinge](#) – Reporter, Houston Business Journal

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Story Highlights

- Port Houston is moving 256 employees into its new East River headquarters.
- The six-story building at 2960 Riverby Road spans 93,845 square feet.
- Port Houston will finalize its plans for its old space in the next 18 months.

The Port of Houston Authority is moving into its new 93,845-square-foot headquarters in the East River mixed-use development.

A total of 256 employees will move into the new building, and much of the relocation will happen before Port Houston's next Port Commission meeting, which will be held at the East River headquarters on Jan. 27.

The Houston Business Journal was exclusively invited to take a look at the new building, at 2960 Riverby Road.

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Port Houston moved into its old building at 111 E. Loop N. near the Turning Basin Terminal in 1991. CEO Charlie Jenkins told the HBJ that the land is grandfathered into the Foreign Trade Zone, which could give tax benefits to cargos but is instead being used for office space.

“We've almost grown four times, and now the Turning Basin has had some growth, and that space is more in demand,” Jenkins said.

Port Houston will finalize its plans for the old space in the next 18 months, Jenkins said.

The move into [Houston-based Midway's 150-acre East River development](#) takes Port Houston farther away from its Turning Basin Terminal and other port operations, but it brings the port authority closer to the historic beginnings of the port at Allen's Landing.

Since [Midway bought the initial 136 acres for its East River development in July 2016](#), other maritime-focused businesses have set up shop in the area as well. Houston-based Orion Group Holdings Inc. (NYSE: ORN) – which provides specialty construction services both on and off the water to the infrastructure, industrial and building sectors – [announced in 2024 its plans to move into the development](#). The move has since been completed.

Meanwhile, the Houston Maritime Center and Museum [moved into the building next to Port Houston's last summer](#). Margaret Kidd, who was the museum's president at the time, told the HBJ that the move was similar to other efforts worldwide to reconnect cities and their industrial ports.

Port Houston's new location will allow it to be more connected to other energy businesses downtown as well, Jenkins said.

"To build new made sense, and then it was like, 'Where do we build? How do we build?'" Jenkins said. "We don't need to be in the middle of downtown; we don't need to be posh and circumstance. We need to be close because, by the way, most of my major partners are right over here in downtown, but we don't need to be on top of it."



Image: Samantha Christino/HBJ

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Outside the Port of Houston Authority's new headquarters in Midway's East River development.

SAMANTHA CHRISTINO/HBJ

The project to develop the new building, which Port Houston owns, was led internally by Erik Eriksson, Port Houston's chief legal officer, but Jenkins added that [the organization's chairman, Ric Campo, is also a developer](#) and was able to help Port Houston make high-level decisions about where to place the building.

The six-story building's lobby entrance includes the Port of Houston Authority's seal, showcasing its status as a public entity, an introduction video and framed photos displaying historic port operations. The first floor also has a large room where Port Commission meetings will take place and opens out to tables and seating in the hall. A separate adjacent room will allow the Port Commission to hold the private portions of its meetings without kicking out all attendees into the hall, which is what would happen at the previous building.

The second floor holds the cafeteria and is connected to Port Houston's parking garage. It also has office space. The other floors are dedicated to office space but have smaller collaboration spaces that could be converted into more office space if the organization grows. The fourth floor has balconies that look out over downtown and Buffalo Bayou.

Port Houston's partners on the project were Midway, the developer; Page, the core and shell architect; Inventure, the interior architect; Harvey-Cleary, the contractor; Avison Young, the consultant; and Debner, the furniture partner.

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