

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Release (*DWCPA Awarded Port Security Grant*)

**PORT AUTHORITY HELPS INCREASE PATROLS OF
DETROIT RIVER AND PORT OF DETROIT**

Detroit, Michigan: The Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority (DWCPA) is expected to introduce two new state-of-the-art patrol vessels to the Detroit River this October of 2005. Together with the Detroit Police Department, Underwater Dive Team and Harbormaster, and Wayne County Sheriff, Marine Unit, application was made to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Port Security Grant program for two new vessels equipped with modern technology capable of addressing today's homeland security threats along one of the busiest river-systems in the country. The DWCPA was awarded approximately \$500,000 to purchase the watercraft in 2004, along with additional engines to outfit existing vessels allowing the DWCPA to, essentially, double the amount of water-based patrols at the Port of Detroit.

"The Detroit River, the State of Michigan's 'international maritime highway,' sees over 5,000 trips through Detroit annually by hundreds of domestic and international freighters," said Curtis Hertel, DWCPA Executive Director. "These could be potential targets, therefore its essential we equip our enforcement units with appropriate technology."

Additionally, the Port of Detroit is home to dozens of petroleum, oil, and chemical manufacturing plants with facilities on the Detroit River. The regional water supply, providing for over 5 million citizens, has three intakes in the Detroit River. Additionally, the Fermi nuclear power facility is located just south of Detroit. The U.S. Coast Guard, Ninth District, does patrol our river, although resources have been taxed at times when multiple incidents required significant attention. At peak times, specifically summer months when Wayne County's 350,000 registered recreational boaters hit the waterways, additional inspections and patrols are needed.

"Each new vessel has been purchased and will allow for all-weather security patrols. Additionally, these vessels are equipped with the latest of technology, including underwater detectors for identifying numerous types of metals," said John Kerr, Director of Economic Development & Grants Management for the DWCPA. "The acquisition and upgrade of technology will help the City of Detroit and Wayne County assist in the overwhelming patrol effort by the U.S. Coast Guard, Ninth District, who is assigned over 32-miles of riverfront, and 180 square miles of open water."

The Wayne County Sheriff, Marine Unit received its vessel in June of 2005, and the City of Detroit Police Department is expected to receive its vessel in October of 2005. Additional support and partnership was provided by the City of Detroit, Director of Homeland Security, Shelby Slater. These additional resources will allow our regional alliance to improve its visibility and effectiveness, and allow our water patrols to compete with the threat global terror has placed at this crucial port of entry.

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