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**PORT OF PALM BEACH FINALIZES PLANS FOR
2006 TRADE MISSION TO BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – The Port of Palm Beach is preparing to embark on its second annual trade mission on Feb. 5-9, 2006. Elected Officials, local companies, and various other interests will visit Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago on a four-day mission.

The upcoming mission to a pair of lower Lesser Antilles nations has vast untapped potential for future commerce; and is currently served by port tenant Tropical Shipping.

Port officials pointed out that Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago currently get only about 30 percent of their imports from the United States. Commissioners cited the importance of the port's role in fostering enhanced trade relations throughout the Caribbean region.

The port, US Commercial Services, and USDA Foreign Agricultural Services – Caribbean Basin Trade Office hosted an informative working luncheon at port offices today. Port Commissioner Wayne Richards was pleased to announce that nearly a dozen companies attended to consider the expanded opportunities available to their companies through this mission.

“We are delighted with the level of interest and participation that this landmark trade mission is generating,” Richards said. “It is indicative of the vital role that our port and region play in international commerce, in particular with key Caribbean trading partners.”

In addition to one-on-one interactions between business representatives, the mission will include meetings among public officials, and establishing formal “sister port” trade relationships.

Officials of companies wishing to expand their international trade opportunities through participation in the mission are urged to contact Lisa Schillig, Manager of Business Development at (561) 383-4127. Space is limited and mission deadline is December 14.

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