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## **Port of Palm Beach Board of Commissioners vote to provide limited financial assistance to Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line**

**Riviera Beach, Florida, March 17, 2020-** Port of Palm Beach Board of Commission Chair, Wayne Richards, called for an emergency meeting held Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, to discuss Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line’s current agreement with the Port of Palm Beach.

“We understand Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line’s position as they have recently been faced with an unpredictable circumstance caused by the pandemic. We acknowledge the coronavirus outbreak is a national public crisis impacting cruise and cargo industries all over including the U.S.,” Chairman Richards said.

During the emergency meeting, the board voted to provide limited financial assistance to our important Port tenant, on the condition of a satisfactory review of the cruise line’s current financial position. This assistance shall be in the form of advance payments that will be returned to the Port over time, once operations resume.

“We appreciate the support of The Port of Palm Beach, who have been long-term strategic partners of ours since our launch in 2016,” said Oneil Khosa, CEO of Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line. “As a family-owned business, this financial support from our friends at the Port means more now than ever before during this challenging time, and we are eternally grateful.”

Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line shall receive approximately \$7,000 per day towards the ongoing costs of maintaining the ship in Port while it attempts to weather this pandemic storm.

“As chairman of the board, I thank my fellow board members for their vote to provide assistance to Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line and to reinforce our commitment of a long-term partnership with the cruise line,” Chair Richards said.

**About Port of Palm Beach**

Located in Riviera Beach, the Port of Palm Beach is a full-service, diversified port, offering cruise and cargo services to more than 30 onsite tenants and users. At 162 acres, the Port’s efficiency is unparalleled, processing more than \$7 billion in commodities, 2.5 million tons of cargo, and 500,000 cruise passengers annually. As one of the largest employers in Palm Beach County, the Port of Palm Beach and its tenants employ more than 2,850 people. Through the contribution of more than \$185 million in business revenue and \$17.5 million in tenant-contributed state and local annual tax revenue, the Port of Palm Beach is a large economic engine in South Florida. For more information, visit [www.portofpalmbeach.com](http://www.portofpalmbeach.com).

**About Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line**

Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line, the ultimate Bahamas getaway, is the only provider of two-night cruises to Grand Bahama Island and Nassau, and the originator of the unique Cruise & Stay program, letting travelers extend their Bahamas adventure with a distinctive resort stay. Recently named Best Short Cruise by *Porthole Cruise Magazine’s* 2020 Editor-in-Chief Awards, the family-owned and operated cruise line sets sail daily from West Palm Beach, where it is headquartered, and operates two ships, *Grand Celebration* and *Grand Classica* – which recently earned Cruise Critic’s 2019 Cruisers’ Choice Award for Best Entertainment.

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