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For Immediate Release

PORT HIRES AWARD-WINNING PLAIN DEALER REPORTER SANDRA LIVINGSTON

December 15, 2010 – Cleveland – The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority has hired Sandra Livingston as its vice president of external affairs.

Will Friedman, CEO of the Port Authority, said Livingston brings a deep reservoir of valuable experience to the position.

"Sandy is savvy and she knows this community well," Friedman said. "She is a distinguished journalist, and we are fortunate to have her come and help us communicate the port's story and its role in growing greater Cleveland's economy."

Livingston has been a reporter since 1985. She has been at *The Plain Dealer* since 1988 and received numerous awards for her work. As a business reporter for more than a dozen years, she covered a broad range of stories from the Major League Baseball strike in 1994 to the collapse of LTV Steel Co. The LTV coverage by Livingston and her colleagues resulted in awards from the Associated Press Society of Ohio, the Press Club of Cleveland and the Society of American Business Editors and Writers.

In recent years, Livingston has been an investigative and metro reporter at *The Plain Dealer*, writing about issues including the foreclosure crisis, urban land use, public education and Ohio's tax system. She was also a member of a team that produced a five-part series entitled "Can We Save Our Neighborhoods?" Those stories were recognized with an award from Columbia University for outstanding coverage of race and ethnicity.

Friedman, who was named CEO of the Port Authority six months ago, has been selectively adding to the agency's staffing. "Our challenge is to grow organizational capacity while controlling the expense side of the ledger. We will do that by hiring productive, results-oriented people," he said. The size of the staff today is smaller than it was in 2005.

Livingston will work to develop and implement governmental affairs programs and maintain relationships with federal and state officials. She will review and monitor state and federal legislation that affects the port, research and recommend potential funding sources for the port, work with outside public affairs and/or marketing firms, assist in community outreach efforts to communicate the mission of the port and more.

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Friedman said he is exploring a wide range of potential opportunities to expand the port's role as an economic stimulator for greater Cleveland. The port's maritime activities - which heighten Cleveland's participation in international commerce - help preserve and grow jobs by allowing companies to operate more efficiently. The port is also empowered by state law to provide financing services for business expansion, a function that Friedman is committed to growing.

"We have a good story to tell at the port, and I think - if we continue to work hard here - it can eventually become a great story," Port Board Chairman Steve Williams said, "Sandy is highly respected in the community and I'm confident she will help us grow and benefit greater Cleveland. We welcome her to the Port Authority."

Livingston added: "I'm delighted to join the Port Authority. The agency has important maritime and economic development work to do and I'm eager to be part of it."