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For Immediate Release

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TALL SHIPS RETURNING TO PORT OF CLEVELAND THIS SUMMER

CLEVELAND – February 17, 2010 – Mark your calendars – the Tall Ships are sailing back to Cleveland.

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, working with the Rotary Club of Cleveland, is helping to bring the Tall Ships Festival back to Cleveland.

The Festival, scheduled from July 7-11, is back after a four-year hiatus and is expected to attract as many 150,000 visitors to the port to view the tall-masted vessels. Festival-goers will be permitted to board the ships. The popular Tall Ships event has a project economic impact of up to \$20 million for the city.

The Port's board of directors today approved a measure that authorizes the Port to become a major sponsor of the event and accommodate the organizers' request for the vessels to dock on Port property.

This year's event will emphasize the Great Lakes maritime history, environmental themes and youth leadership through sail training. There has not been an official tall ships festival in Cleveland since 2006.

"Greater Cleveland loves this event, and with good reason," said Peter Raskind, the Port Authority's CEO. "The Tall Ships allow all of us to embrace and experience our great lake – which is such an incredible asset in multiple ways. Seeing these great ships, some of which are close to 200 feet long, offers a beautiful glimpse into Cleveland's and our nation's past."

One highlight of the festival will be the "Parade of Sail" Wednesday, July 7, when the ships enter the Port of Cleveland. Get your cameras ready.

"This event allows the port to celebrate our great maritime tradition, which of course continues today," said Port Board Chairman Steve Williams. "This is a great Cleveland summer tradition, and we're pleased to bring it back. It is good for the Port and good for Cleveland."

There will be more details in the weeks and months ahead. The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority is pleased to bring this event back to our city.