

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

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NEWS RELEASE

Port pleased with court's decision in FOIA lawsuit

Piti, Guam, September 10, 2020: Port Authority of Guam General Manager Rory J. Respicio said that he is pleased with a ruling issued in Superior Court today denying Attorney Tom Fisher's requests in a FOIA lawsuit he filed against the agency.

"We have said from the beginning that we fully complied with Mr. Fisher's FOIA request and we substantiated our compliance through documents and declarations," Respicio said. "Even the judge acknowledged that it appears that the email system being utilized by Mr. Fisher's law firm was not working properly."

Fisher filed a lawsuit claiming the Port never responded to a FOIA request, however, the Port did comply on the day required and emailed Mr. Fisher 63 pages of documents. The Port provided the court copies of the screen shots of the FOIA response email sent to Fisher as well as declarations by staff that the emails had been sent. The court noted that officials from the Attorney General's Office attempted to email Fisher but those emails were bounced back as the law firm's email inbox was full and could not accept any more incoming correspondence.

Fisher asked Superior Court Judge Anita A. Sukola to issue sanctions against Respicio and the judge today denied that request. Sukola added in her ruling that she would encourage parties to communicate with each other to avoid any outstanding disputes.

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