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Thanks, Forbes, but Houston's Already a 'Great Global City,' Leaders Say



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“Although Forbes recently predicted that Houston will soon be known as “America’s next great global city,” some area business and city leaders suggest this just confirms what the local business community already knows.”

By Deon Daugherty and Olivia Pulsinelli, Houston Business Journal

Although Forbes recently predicted that Houston will soon be known as “America’s next great global city,” some area business and city leaders say this just confirms what the local business community already knows.

“Look where they’re doing business — all over the globe,” Greg Ortale, president and CEO of the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, said of Houston’s business community.

Mayor Annise Parker — the self-described No. 1 cheerleader for Houston — also “would argue that Houston is already a great global city.”

“We are an example of a city that thrives on diversity and entrepreneurial spirit,” she told Houston Business Journal. “ Indeed, we are what the rest of the country will look like and how other cities will need to function in the future.”

Echoing the Forbes article, Ortale pointed out that Houston’s economy is continuously expanding its global reach. He noted the Panama Canal expansion will boost Houston’s already powerful trade sector. And the GHCVB is working to bring medical conferences to Houston, he said.

Additionally, the city continues to draw companies that want to tap the region’s economic prominence and global reach.

Gary Hanna, CEO of EPL Oil & Gas Inc. (NYSE: EPL), moved the company from New Orleans to Houston in June to capitalize on the city's oil and gas resources.

But there's more to Houston than its Petro Metro nickname implies, he said.

"You're seeing a lot of activity and growth, even beyond energy. It's transcending the idea of a Petro Metro and increasingly becoming a hub for other industries, like financial services," he said. "It's already a great, global city."

Deon Daugherty, reporter, covers energy and law for the Houston Business Journal. Olivia Pulsinelli is web producer for the Houston Business Journal.