March 17, 2020

Mr. Kevin Willis
Director, Office of Airport Compliance & Management Analysis
800 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Re: Airport Investment Partnership Program (formerly Airport Privatization Pilot Program) – Preliminary Application for St. Louis Lambert International Airport – St. Louis, Missouri

Director Willis:

As you are aware, the former Mayor of the City of St. Louis, Francis Slay, filed a Preliminary Application for the St. Louis Lambert International Airport to be included in the Airport Privatization Pilot Program (now known as the Airport Investment Partnership Program) under 49 U.S.C. 47134. That Preliminary Application was filed March 22, 2017 and was accepted by your office on April 21, 2017.

That Preliminary Application referenced the exploration and potential privatization of St. Louis Lambert International Airport and expressly identified a city-wide election as a possible option for such a process. More particularly, a Charter Amendment to authorize such a transaction was identified on Page 3 of the Preliminary Application. A Charter Amendment may only be accomplished in one of two manners: by the Board of Aldermen or by an Initiative Petition, both of which ultimately require city-wide voter approval.

Please let this letter serve as formal notice to your office that a citizen led Initiative Petition to authorize a Charter Amendment is being commenced in the City of St. Louis. That Initiative Petition, if approved, would authorize and instruct the City of St. Louis to proceed to execute a transaction under the Airport Investment Partnership Program, if certain parameters are met by a potential lessee.

Ultimately, as the Preliminary Application noted, the City of St. Louis is the sponsoring entity. The Charter of the City of St. Louis provides that the President of the Board of Aldermen is an independently elected official who presides over the Board of Aldermen and also serves as one of three members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. See, e.g., Charter of St. Louis, Article XVI, Section 1.

Based upon the structure of the proposal Initiative Petition, the Charter would be amended to broaden the powers of the President and the legislative branch of city government to include the privatization process. That initiative Petition would have strict deadlines for a transaction. The election process for the Initiative Petition will be concluded on November 5, 2020 and it is imperative that if the initiative
passes, that the Preliminary Application be available for the City to promptly proceed with the process.

It is for these reasons, that the Preliminary Application should remain on file and not to be withdrawn by any other officer or entity. I further request, that if any person or city official seeks to withdraw or limit the Preliminary Application, that you inform me of the same before taking any action so that I may address such an action.

The City of St. Louis has extensive needs, as does the St. Louis Lambert International Airport, and a potential lease of the Airport is too important of an opportunity for our City not to explore and let the voters have their voice heard. I am confident that the voters will move this process forward.

I look forward to visiting with you and your staff in the near future to outline the Initiative Petition, the process, and to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lewis Reed
President, St. Louis City Board of Aldermen