

July 14, 2015

Mr. Kevin McKeown
Mayor of the City of Santa Monica
2118 Wilshire Boulevard, Room 209
Santa Monica, CA 90403
kevin@mckeown.net

RE: Santa Monica Airport Leases

Dear Mayor McKeown:

I write on behalf of the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA). As you may recall, NBAA represents over 10,000 member companies which own and operate over 11,000 general aviation aircraft to facilitate the conduct of their businesses or which are otherwise involved with business aviation – including tenants and users of the Santa Monica Municipal Airport (SMO), who are strongly interested in its future accessibility and viability.

We understand that the City Council's agenda for its meeting tonight includes the extension of the leases of various airport tenants. As previously has been communicated to the City (including in NBAA's letters dated March 24, 2014 and March 19, 2015), the City's obligations pursuant to the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants that it has accepted from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) endure until 2023 – and the conditions of the 1948 Instrument of Transfer (IOT) are effective in perpetuity.

Consequentially the lease term extensions now under consideration must be consistent with the City's federal obligations. Generally, airport tenants are entitled to long-term leases. For current purposes, this obligation means that – consistent with the City Attorney and Director of Public Work's recommendations – involuntary month-to-month leases would be non-compliant and subject to challenge.

NBAA urges the City Council to act with due regard for its federal obligations (and pending litigation and administrative proceedings), and to the extent proposed, extend existing SMO tenant leases for a term of three years.

Sincerely,



Steve Brown
NBAA, Chief Operating Officer

CC:

By Email:

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