A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

With summer almost over and fall approaching, we can only hope the worst of this tumultuous year of COVID-19 challenges is behind us. Still, as much as we'd like to believe improving conditions lie ahead, much remains uncertain in the short term, especially for airports and other aviation-related businesses.

In July, approximately 937,000 travelers flew through FLL, which signaled an improvement over the previous months. In June and May, FLL welcomed 601,140 and 234,515 passengers, respectively. Although the increase in visitation was encouraging, monthly passenger traffic during the pandemic remains significantly below 2019 levels.

Another factor impacting business activity at FLL is the months-long suspension of U.S. cruise operations through at least October when South Florida's peak cruising season would normally begin. We'll continue to closely monitor industry news about the resumption of sailings from nearby Port Everglades, our sister Broward County agency.
In August, a few more restaurants and shops reopened at FLL to cater to guests traveling for leisure or essential purposes, including Casavana Cuban Restaurant in Terminal 4, and 5th & Sunset in Terminal 1. Additionally, the second outpost of electronics retailer InMotion opened in Terminal 4.

One good sign recently in the fight to contain COVID-19 in South Florida has been the slowing rate of new infections after numbers had spiked to record levels during the summer. In August, local government and public health officials attributed the decrease in new infections to increased use of face coverings and adherence to social distancing guidelines. We’ve added more signage in the terminals and parking garage elevators to remind everyone to wear face coverings inside the airport and Rental Car Center. Free masks are available at the information booths in FLL’s baggage claim areas.

As we continue to juggle several pandemic-related obstacles, the well-being of airport passengers and employees remains paramount. To that end, FLL’s enhanced sanitizing and cleaning regimen continues as part of initiatives to maintain a safe and clean airport environment for travelers’ return. Read more about our "FLLy Safer, FLLy Smarter, FLLy Better" campaign here.

Here are some highlights of other airport happenings:

- **Airline Updates:** Two airlines are planning to add service from FLL this fall/winter to select leisure markets where consumer demand is expected to rebound quicker. Beginning October 1, JetBlue will offer daily or weekly flights to Seattle, WA, Portland, OR, and Pittsburgh, PA. Meanwhile, United’s new seasonal nonstop flights to Boston, MA, Cleveland, OH, and New York’s LaGuardia Airport will run November 6 through January 10, 2021. On the downside, with airlines globally facing devastating financial and operational impacts relating to COVID-19, international flights from FLL to Dubai, Scandinavia, and Europe remain suspended. Last week in other airline news, Southwest announced plans to expand service to two other airports including our neighbor to the south, Miami International Airport. Southwest first landed at FLL, January 22, 1996, with six flights a day to Tampa. At its peak, the airline operated 95 daily departures at FLL in March 2019. As a
result of COVID-19 impacts, Southwest currently operates 29 daily flights at FLL. It is not uncommon for airlines to serve more than one airport regionally. In fact, 13 airlines currently serve two or more airports in South Florida. Southwest's senior management has assured the Broward County Aviation Department they are committed to FLL for the long term. Additionally, the service in Miami is anticipated to serve only domestic destinations.

- **Terminal Improvements**: Work continued this summer on enhancement projects across the airport's terminals, runways, and roadways. On your next visit, check out the progress on Terminal 2's new dome roof (pictured above) and other interior upgrades (new gate-area restrooms and seating). In Terminal 3, recent additions include new modern and spacious restrooms in Concourse F and the opening of its latest eatery, Oceanside Marketplace.

- **Technology**: As passenger needs evolve in an increasingly mobile-centric world, FLL continues to explore technology such as biometrics (facial recognition, iris scans, etc.) to enhance airport efficiency and security, while providing more contactless options during travel. We're currently working with a travel industry vendor and a handful of airline partners on a new biometric screening platform for international departures. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months.

- **Patriot Day Commemoration**: We're going virtual in 2020 to commemorate Patriot Day (September 11, 2001) when thousands of lives were lost in a series of terrorist attacks on America. On Friday, September 11, the Aviation Department's "No Matter What, FLL Will Never Forget" pre-recorded ceremony will be shown on TV monitors near the airport's permanent 9/11 Memorial in Terminal 1. The video tribute featuring short interviews with federal, county, and airport officials will be available for viewing on social media and the airport's YouTube channel.

Lastly, although we have been fortunate thus far, as we enter the peak of hurricane season, we must all remain vigilant and have our emergency response plans ready should a significant weather event pose a threat to our
area. We are continually updating our hurricane response plan and meeting virtually with our stakeholders each time a storm forms and has the potential to impact our area.

As always, stay safe and healthy, remain positive, and let’s work together to put this pandemic behind us. We hope you visit FLL soon, knowing we are doing our part to keep the airport safe and sanitized.

Mark

Stay Connected

Subscribe Now