A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

Summer is in our rearview mirror, and the fall season is upon us. It has been a tough season with the impacts of COVID-19 on the aviation industry and our community. Then the deadly fires in the western United States, and the devastating hurricanes on the Gulf Coast. But in the not too distant future, we are optimistic that conditions will improve. As you will see outlined below, airlines are slowly resuming flights to popular destinations in South America and the U.S. While we are not through with the painful process of recovery, there are signs of gradual improvement. We look forward to the day when the skies slowly return to normal with planes and happy passengers.

In the coming days, the aviation industry is making a last-ditch effort in Washington, D.C., to secure a second round of federal funding. Money that desperately is needed to keep the workforce employed while the industry slowly rebounds. If the funding does not come in time, many airlines have indicated that they will be forced to cut thousands of employees.

Mark E. Gale
CEO/Director of Aviation
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL)
In August, FLL welcomed 880,018 travelers, representing a six percent decline from July’s stronger showing of 936,979 passengers. Still, while current passenger activity is an improvement over the early months of the pandemic hitting America, visitors’ numbers remain substantially below last year’s numbers. Overall, passenger traffic year-to-date through August remains about 56 percent below the same eight-month period in 2019.

With COVID-19 still a reality as we enter the final quarter of 2020, our efforts to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus are ongoing to safeguard airport guests and employees’ health. As part of our "FLLy Safer, FLLy Smarter, FLLy Better" public confidence campaign, we recently added ultraviolet (UV) light technology in Terminal 2 to our existing virus-fighting arsenal. The new UV light cleaning system provides continuous sanitation of the escalator handrails and complements other deep cleaning measures in play, including electrostatic sanitizing machines and disinfecting foggers/misters.

Here’s a roundup of other recent airport news:

- **Airline Improvements**: If you regularly fly from FLL, or have visited recently, you may have seen workers in action installing new numerical signage atop each terminal (as pictured above), or the colorful digital airline location signs erected along the airport’s entrance roadway. More than 5,100 new and upgraded signs will be added across the airport’s roadway, terminal curbsides, and parking garages as part of a comprehensive wayfinding and signage project scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020.

- **Destination Updates**: To offset underperforming travel segments (business/conference) and destinations due to low demand or travel restrictions arising from COVID-19, airlines are adding new routes to boost leisure traffic. In September, JetBlue Airways announced plans for new twice-weekly flights between FLL and Bozeman, MT, and Palm Springs, CA, starting December 18. These flights join JetBlue’s other new routes to Seattle, WA, Portland, OR, and Pittsburgh, PA, slated to begin October 1. Additionally, United Airlines’ new seasonal
nonstop flights to Boston, MA, Cleveland, OH, and New York’s LaGuardia Airport will run November 6 to January 10, 2021. Meanwhile, internationally, Spirit Airlines recently resumed flights between FLL and Colombia (Bogota, Cali, Cartagena, and Medellin). Before the end of 2020, Spirit also plans to launch previously announced new service to the Colombian cities of Bucaramanga and Barranquilla.

- **Emergency Drill**: On Friday, November 13, FLL will host its triennial airport training drill to evaluate the airport’s emergency preparedness and response. The Federal Aviation Administration mandates the exercise as part of the airport’s operating certification. The drill will include unified command procedures, triage and transport of victims, simulated Family Reception Center, Family Assistance Program and passenger/family reunification, as well as Emergency Operations Center. To accomplish this task, we are seeking volunteers from the surrounding airport community to act in roles such as passengers and family members. During this exercise, FLL will be taking extra precautions to ensure that all COVID-19 policies and guidelines are being adhered to, and that we are able to maintain a safe environment for all participants. Volunteer registration is open through October 16.

- **New Offices**: The Broward County Aviation Department (BCAD) will be relocating in October to new consolidated offices in Terminal 4. The employees relocating represent Administration/Executive, Airport Development, Business & Properties Management, County Attorney’s Office, Information Systems, and Finance teams. From a historical perspective, this relocation has been in the works for many years following two earlier BCAD moves in 2012 and 2006, which were interim measures until our permanent airport-based offices were built. Keep watch for our new address in the coming weeks.
As always, be safe and stay healthy during these challenging times, and remember to remain vigilant as hurricane season runs through November 30.

Mark

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