



4100 E. Donald Douglas Drive, Floor 2
Long Beach, CA 90808
Tel 562.570.2619
Fax 562.570.2601
www.lgb.org

Memorandum

Date: February 23, 2015

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager 

From: Bryant L. Francis, C.M., Director, Long Beach Airport 

For: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **U.S. Customs Facility at the Long Beach Airport**

Today, the Airport received a written request from JetBlue Airways Corporation to begin work with the City to seek the creation of a U.S. Customs Facility (FIS) at Long Beach Airport. A copy of the letter is attached for your review.

There are several steps which would need to be undertaken, including determinations on construction cost, identifying funding source(s), facility site and layout, a fee structure for users, etc. Further, it would be beneficial to consult with firms specializing in the development of FIS Facilities and assisting in the process of obtaining U.S. Customs and Border Protection designation to provide guidance and assistance.

This is an extensive process and will include City Council guidance at critical junctures, ensuring community awareness and input throughout the process. It is estimated that, should the City Council ultimately direct the Airport to proceed with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection application process, it would be a minimum of three years before an FIS facility could become operational. The City will be required to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, for consideration as either a new "Port of Entry" or "User Fee" Airport. This application process includes multiple steps, and would require several months of federal review before approval or denial is determined.

Further, there is no guarantee that U.S. Customs and Border Protection would approve the Airport's application for designation as either a Port of Entry or a User Fee Airport, as it is responsible for providing the officers to process passengers and freight onboard aircraft arriving from international points of origin.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
February 23, 2015
Page 2

The Airport will follow all due diligence while continuing to protect and actively enforce the Noise Ordinance which allows for a minimum of 41 commercial and 25 commuter slots daily.

BF:km

Attachment

cc: Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
Arturo Sanchez, Deputy City Manager
Michael J. Mais, Assistant City Attorney
Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager



February 23, 2015

Mr. Bryant Francis, Director
Long Beach Municipal Airport
4400 Donald Douglas Drive
Long Beach, CA 90808

Dear Mr. Francis:

On behalf of the 16,500 Crewmembers of JetBlue Airways and especially our more than 700 Crewmembers based at the Long Beach Municipal Airport ("LGB"), JetBlue requests the Airport and the City of Long Beach apply to the United States Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, for a User Fee Airport designation and seek the approval to establish Customs facilities at the Long Beach Municipal Airport, pursuant to the provisions of Title 19, United States Code, Section 58b.

Following the City Council Study Session held recently on the Airport Noise Ordinance, and with no nexus whatsoever between enhancing the Airport with a modest Customs facility and in any way disturbing the sanctity or legality of the Ordinance, JetBlue requests the City seek the presence of US Customs for purposes of processing aircraft under the Customs User Fee Airport program. Given the need for a facility capable of processing no more than three aircraft in any one hour period, it is JetBlue's belief that LGB qualifies under the guidelines for a User Fee Airport. JetBlue will utilize only its current allotment of assigned Air Carrier slots and existing aircraft parking positions to fly internationally in addition to our current 11 domestic markets.

International flights at LGB operated by JetBlue, or by any carrier that holds allocated slots, and consistent with the Airport's Noise Ordinance, will greatly enhance the stature of the City of Long Beach, improve international economic opportunities through increased tourism, commerce and conventions and foster greater cultural ties throughout the region. Further, the general aviation community will be able to avail itself of international travel opportunities while also operating within the existing Noise Ordinance limitations and restrictions. Like international commercial flights, international general aviation flights will bring new economic and corporate opportunities to the City of Long Beach.

JetBlue has been a model corporate citizen in Long Beach and a steadfast supporter of the Noise Ordinance since our inaugural flight nearly 14 years ago. We look forward to working closely with the City to immediately proceed with the application process and begin the work required to secure an international flight designation for the City of Long Beach.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Land". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert C. Land
Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Associate General Counsel