



Milwaukee County Board

Supervisor James G. White, First District

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For Immediate Release
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SUPERVISORS CONSIDER AIRPORT MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP REPORT

Also: Runway safety zones and cameras on County buses

Milwaukee, WI –The Milwaukee County Board’s Transportation, Public Works, and Transit committee voted 7-0 to lay over a report studying alternative structures for operating General Mitchell International Airport. It could be revisited in the future at the request of Committee Chairman James G. White.

Supervisor White said he and the rest of the committee have yet to receive a presentation from any person or organization in favor of a governance change at General Mitchell International Airport. “It’s one of the most effective, efficient, and well-managed airports in the country.” Supervisor Richard Nyklewicz, Jr., said, “Proponents of a hostile takeover have still not appeared before the board. The silence continues, and it’s appalling.”

According to White, the number one consideration for business travelers is an airport’s ability to provide non-stop service. “Despite ranking 50th in size, Mitchell International ranks 5th in terms of efficiency and effectiveness,” White said, citing a recent survey from Condé Nast Traveler magazine. “Under the County’s leadership, Mitchell is easy to use and offers lots of point-to-point destinations.”

Supervisor White will discuss his ideas for the governance of Mitchell International Airport at the Milwaukee Press Club’s next Newsmaker Luncheon, titled "The Future of Milwaukee's Airport." The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 13, at the Newsroom Pub in downtown Milwaukee, 137 E. Wells St.

In separate action, the committee also heard several options available for increasing runway safety areas at the airport, which must be completed by 2015. Federal funds would cover 75%, while the State would pay for 12.5% of the costs. The Airport would fund the remaining 12.5%.

Committee members also voted 7-0 to approve the installation of another 146 cameras on board Milwaukee County Transit Buses, completing installation on the entire fleet. The funds were provided in the 2006 capital improvement budget.

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