



**Statement by Finance Committee Chair
Ti Martin, Chair for Aviation Board Finance Committee
January 13, 2011**

Today, as we review the considerations of these reports, we embark on a resolute commitment to transparency and accountability. While we cannot undo the errors of our past, we can, and do, control the decisions for our future. We will move forward with a newfound dedication to identifying areas of improvement and implementing corrective policies and procedures.

On behalf of the New Orleans Aviation Board and the Finance Committee, I'd like to thank Mr. Asher for his work on these two reports and his invaluable insights. These reports will greatly contribute to the foundation of our new direction, but ultimately, they will serve as just one step in a continuous process of self regulation and growth.

In addition to the new policies and procedures born from these reports, the board will implement a host of improvements including an extension of business hours, the hiring of expert administrators and the adoption of industry best practices.

The new leadership driving these changes has inspired a new spirit of encouragement and excitement. We will have a free flow of information. We will be auditing left and right, and we will become the economic engine and point of pride that this community deserves.

Mr. Asher's reports were just that, reports and self directed analysis. It's an important leap in transparency for the NOAB. They represent the bold and aggressive stance the NOAB is taking toward self improvement. The reports cover the past, present and future.

Past

The report is clear that there are problems in our past.

No surprise; in the Director's 100 Day Report to the Board and the people of our region, he identified that there were problems, which led to the commissioning of these reports and analyses.

We charged Asher with scrutinizing the compliance of our leaders with policies and procedures. For the most part, the problems he found were not with compliance, but with a lack of adequate policies.

We are here today to change that.

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Present

The report finds that the current Director, administration, staff and board activities have been “squeaky clean.” Let me repeat that: “squeaky clean.”

Such a strong commendation of performance is invigorating for our effort to make this airport one that every person in the region will point to with pride as “MY airport.”

Future

The future. That is where all of our attention and focus is and must remain.

The new stringent policies and procedures, that I truly hope you will unanimously support today, set a new standard for our future.

Harold Asher has said that there is nothing more he could add to what we are proposing today.

He said that with these new policies we will be the “Gold Standard” of Board performance and governance.

That is what the people of our region deserve, and that is what we will deliver.

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