



Aviation Director Roy Williams Accepts New Position

Will Become the Executive Director of the Salt Lake City Department of Airports

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Roy A. Williams, Director of Aviation at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, will leave New Orleans at the end of May to take the helm at Salt Lake City. As Director of Airports for the Salt Lake City Department of Airports, Mr. Williams will manage Salt Lake City International and two general aviation airports.

Williams has served as Director of Aviation at Armstrong International since March 2001.

At its next meeting on May 10, 2005, the New Orleans Aviation Board is expected to consider the process for replacing Mr. Williams. Chairman of the Aviation Board Dan Packer commented "Replacing Roy Williams will not be easy. His extensive background in multiple facets of the aviation industry combined with his academic background in economics and law makes him quite unique." Packer added "Since I joined the New Orleans Aviation Board in 2002 I've watched Roy build a professional and highly competent organization that's handled many challenges including Hurricane Katrina. He will be sorely missed."

Henry Smith, the Board's longest serving member of the Aviation Board and representative of St. Charles Parish, said "I've seen the difference Roy Williams has made by reaching out to neighboring communities, business leaders and elected officials. He knows how to bring folks together for the benefit of all. For example, in the recent runway rehabilitation project, he secured funding to close the final gap in the hurricane protection levee between St. Charles and Jefferson Parishes. Bringing all the agencies and parishes together to make that happen is unprecedented."

Edward Shelswell-White, Chairman of the Airline Negotiating Committee and Regional Director -Properties for Southwest Airlines commented, "There have been many challenges in recent years for the airline industry. Because of his airline roots, Roy has always been able to understand the airline perspective while remembering the goals of Armstrong International. The results of our negotiations were fair to the airlines and the airport. We will miss Roy at New Orleans, and wish him success in Salt Lake City"

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Deputy Director of Aviation for Administration and Finance, Patricia Malone, a 23 year veteran of Armstrong International, has served under many directors and is the longest serving Deputy Director. Ms. Malone stated “Roy’s absolute love of the aviation industry has been an inspiration. His understanding of the many details of the industry and ability to put all the pieces of the puzzle together, to clarify issues and communicate is unique. Along with that he has a great sense of humor! His team will really miss him!”

Also at the May 10 Aviation Board meeting, Chairman Packer will propose the interim management approach for the Board to take until Williams’ successor has been chosen. Packer will recommend that the Board appoint Mr. Sean Hunter, Deputy Director for Operations and Maintenance as Acting Director of Aviation. “Sean, with the support of the rest of the great Airport staff, will keep our recovery efforts on track.” Mr. Hunter notes that “As our traffic grows, we will work as a team to implement a number of projects to keep the airport experience safe, secure, and customer-friendly.”

Williams has held leadership positions with airports, airlines, and aviation consulting firms for over twenty years. In the 1990s, he served as the Director of Aviation for the Dayton, Ohio International Airport, and directed airport operations in London and Bolivia for Airport Group International, a worldwide airport privatization company. Prior to that, Williams spent nearly seven years as Regional Director of Properties for USAir (now US Airways), representing the airline to airport operators, landlords, air carriers, media, and government bodies in the US and Europe. He also led USAir facility expansions at Cleveland, Phoenix, and Washington, DC.

Before joining USAir, Williams practiced law in Salt Lake City, Utah with Jones, Waldo, Holbrook & McDonough, specializing in bankruptcy and commercial litigation. He assisted in the development of the 1983 bond issue that funded the expansion of the Western Airlines (now Delta Air Lines) hub at Salt Lake City International Airport.

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