



Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport Selects Transportation Company to Enhance Services

(2004 Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations are impetus for new initiative)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 3, 2009 (New Orleans, LA) In a move that began in 2004, but was interrupted by Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans Aviation Board has selected a national transportation company to manage taxi cab and transportation services at the Airport. Dulles Airport Taxi of Virginia was selected to initiate ground transportation enhancements that will improve customer service (i.e. requiring child safety seats and credit card machines), monitor the quality of transportation vehicles, increase professionalism and provide higher standards for taxi and transportation operations at the Airport.

The move toward standardization of transportation services began in 2004 after Mayor C. Ray Nagin's Blue Ribbon Committee recommended changes to the Aviation Board. Aviation Board Chairman Dan Packer says that the goal is to provide tourists, convention goers and citizens of New Orleans taxi service from the Airport in clean, safe and insured vehicles driven by friendly and honest drivers. Among other things, Packer says, "They can expect a standard fee for service and a taxi cab ride that we hope will create a positive impression and encourage visitors to come again." Packer says the Airport wants to be the gateway for expanding and strengthening the tourism industry for the region. "With our namesake, Louis Armstrong as inspiration, we hope to build on the legend of the unique New Orleans experience," Packer continued.

Armstrong International Airport Director, Sean Hunter, says that "While the Airport is encouraged and motivated by the prospect of enhanced services for the public, we are also mindful of the needs of the dedicated taxi cab drivers who serve the metropolitan area. We have committed to a 120 day transition period," Hunter says. A series of informational meetings will be organized to educate and inform drivers about the new policies and criteria for airport transportation services. Drivers will be provided assistance in meeting the new criteria, and incentives will be implemented to help those drivers who have difficulties meeting the criteria. Hunter says the bottom line is that "all drivers will be treated fairly and with respect".

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Dulles Airport Taxi (DAT) is headquartered in Falls Church Virginia. DAT provides a full range of airport transportation services. DAT and its other sister corporation have won three international transportation awards given by the Airport Ground Transportation Association (AGTA). Company Vice President of Operations, John Massoud says the point people on the New Orleans project will be his father and President of DAT, Farouq Massoud, Mr. Jeff Fisher, and Mr. Tim Lenihan. "Our combined management team has over 175 years of experience in the transportation industry", Massoud said.

Massoud's team will be joined locally by Mr. Byron Goodwin and L & R Security Services, owned by Mr. Ed Robinson. DAT is expected to take over operations as soon as contract negotiations are completed.

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