



To: Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council
From: Jason Watt, Airport Director
Date: March 28, 2023
Re: Responses to City Airport Budget Hearing

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 10, 2023, regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget for the Airport Department.

1. What is the status of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Airport Historic District designation? Will a historic designation effect any of the intended uses?

Answer: The airport does not currently have any historic designations. At this point it is the opinion of the department that a historic designation could affect future intended uses of the airport. At a minimum, a historic designation would slow the overall development of the airport, delaying or eliminating potential funding opportunities. If there are cost effective design elements that can be repurposed, saved, or incorporated into future designs, the department is willing to evaluate them for potential implementation wherever possible.

2. The adopted FY2023 Budget provides for 11 FTE positions, but as of February 10, 2023, only 9 positions appear to be filled. What positions are currently vacant? Why is the department proposing 12 FTE position for FY2024 when there are still vacancies?

Answer: The airport department has one vacancy as of March 20, 2023. This resulted from promoting an existing employee. The vacant Airport Service Worker position is posted, and the department is currently recruiting for the position. We anticipate having this position filled in the next month.

3. On page B10-5, the proposed expenditures for Professional and Contractual Services increases from \$738,375 in FY2023 to \$1,538,376 in FY2024. What is the reason for the more than 100% increase?

Answer: The Airport Department plans to increase the Kimley-Horn contract by \$800,000 (one-time cost) to cover costs associated with design of a new taxiway to increase the chance of federal funding.

4. On page B10-6, Contributions and Transfers revenues increases by more than \$1 million from \$2,931,118 in FY2023 to \$3,953,472 in FY2024. Please explain the increase in revenue.

Answer: Contributions and Transfer revenues increased due to the increase in the City's General Fund contribution to the Airport Department. This resulted from the increase for the Kimley-Horn contract \$800,000 (one time cost) to cover costs



associated with the design of a new taxiway as well as the addition of the Airport Community Relations Manager position.

5. How much does the City subsidize the Coleman Young Airport from the General Fund? What is the plan and timeline for eliminating that subsidy?

Answer: The Airport Department General Fund Subsidy for FY23 is \$2,931,118. Any reduction or elimination of the City's General Fund subsidy is dependent on the success of the Airport Layout Plan implementation and subsequent redevelopment and business activities at the airport.

6. Please list any educational and apprenticeship programs, as well as which organizations partnering with the airport.

Answer: Friends of Detroit City Airport:

- Women in Aviation
- Airport 101
- Annual Christmas toy drive and giveaway

Tuskegee Airman Museum:

- Drone Piloting Class

Thursdays, 6-8 pm

The Museum's drone club provides instruction to organizations and youth in the knowledge required to pass the FAA part 107 written exam. The Museum teaches youth to program and fly drones responsibly. Youth 16 years old and up can earn their FAA certificate and gain experience to be hired as a drone operator.

- Rocket Club

Thursdays, 6-8pm

The Tuskegee Airmen National Museum Rocket Club seeks to involve youth that may have an interest in aerospace science.

- A&P Maintenance Familiarization

Thursdays 6-8 pm

This is a new program provided by The Tuskegee Airmen National Museum. The program seeks to introduce youth and young adults to the career field of aviation maintenance with hands on as well as classroom instruction.

- Flight Academy

October-April

Thursdays 6-8 pm

Start your flying Career: Tuskegee Airmen Flight Academy is designed for youth ages 14 to 19 years of age who want to become professional pilots. The program offers year-round flight instruction and ground school classes leading to a private pilot license.



- **Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy - Summer Session**

This program is designed for youth in grades 8 – 10 who may or may not have an interest in an aviation career. The 5-day camp is based at Wayne State University. Tours include Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Metro Airport, and The Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum. Classroom instruction includes the history of aviation, parts of an airplane, and theory of flight.

- **Aviation Career Week**

The Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum and the Detroit Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., exhibit a wide variety of aviation role models, to over 4,000 students during a five-day period, in February each year. This program's goal is to provide the student with a panoramic understanding of the paths to pursue to attain a career.

- **Wild Blue Wonders**

The Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum runs this program as an in-school program for middle schools in the Detroit Metro Area. This program uses aviation to inspire middle school-age students to learn more about science, math, and technology. Using a team approach, the program utilizes five prepared components or "missions", each designed to implement.

- **Young Eagles Rally**

April – October

The Detroit Tuskegee Airmen EAA Chapter 1351 holds Young Eagles Rallies on the second Sunday of the month from April to October to attract youth to our aviation programs. The rallies run from 10AM to 2PM and give youth ages 8 to 17 a free airplane ride around the City of Detroit.

Black Pilots of America:

- Pilot Safety Seminars
- Pilot training

Civil Air Patrol: Programs are ongoing, quasi-Military (United States Air Force USAF) program that teaches participants leadership skills, and pilot training for free.

cc: City Council Members
Malik Washington, Mayor's Office