

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION (RAC) MEETING
APRIL 12, 2022

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom video and tele-conference and was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:00p.m. Also present were Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Stella Barbera, Robert Bodenmiller, and Joan Flaumenbaum. Richard Grant was unable to attend.

Chairman Nocerino began the meeting by stating the following:

- RAC received copies of 2 letters sent by the Republic Airport Civic Coalition for Integrity and Compliance to NYSDOT. The letters expressed concerns about the 5-parcel bid award process.
- NYSDOT Deputy Executive Commissioner Ron Epstein retired on April 8th.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2022

Mr. Bodenmiller moved to adopt the February 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Bologna. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2022

Airport Manager John Lauth discussed the following:

- Airport Operations in January were down overall from last year, but were higher in February, including landings, touch & go's, and passenger volume. Based aircraft inventory was up 8% from the previous year.
- Aircraft noise complaints were lower compared to the same months in 2021. There were 18 complaints from 8 households in January, and 29 complaints from 11 households in February. Most complaints related to daytime operations of jet or multi/single engine aircraft. Residents living southeast of the Airport filed the majority of January complaints, while February complaints came mainly from the northwest.
- Financial Reports show favorable revenues from Landings, License, and Fuel Flowage fees in both January and February. Total expenses in January exceeded budget projections due to unfavorable variances in Janitorial Services and Airport Maintenance. In February, total expenses were lower than budget projections due to favorable variances with Labor, Employee, Utilities, and Professional Services expenses.

2. RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth reported on the following:

- a. TSA Extends Face Mask Requirement to April 18, 2022:** Face mask mandate within transportation networks may be extended further.
- b. Bethpage Air Show:** Preparations are underway.
- c. Film Shoots:** Hulu show “Ramy” at Sheltair on April 6th; another film shoot is tentative for late April.

B. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution with Respect to Cargo Operations at Republic Airport

- Airport Director Anthony Ceglio read the Resolution. All 6 members present voted in favor; Mr. Grant was absent. The Resolution was adopted.

C. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

Mr. Ceglio reported the following:

1. **Response to Republic Airport Civic Coalition for Integrity and Compliance:** NYSDOT received letters from the Republic Airport Civic Coalition for Integrity and Compliance dated 2/12/22 and 4/11/22. Mr. Epstein sent a response to the first letter on 3/22/22 which stated that leases for the 5 Parcels are between NYSDOT and Stratosphere Development and any change in the partial ownership of Talon Air has no impact on the development of the 5-parcels. The State will provide a response to the second letter. There is no information about Mr. Epstein’s replacement at this time.
2. **Alpha Taxiway Project:** Project plans were made available to potential bidders and a pre-bid meeting was held today (April 12th). Bid opening will be held April 21, 2022. Construction is expected to begin late Summer 2022.
3. **5-Parcel Development Project:** No new developments.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two (2) individuals commented.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

**Anthony C. Ceglio on behalf of Executive Secretary
Republic Airport Commission**

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
April 12, 2022

Ms. Nancy Cypser asked when she will receive information on the number of Talon Charter flights, which she requested at previous meetings. She asked for it to be added to the operations report on a monthly basis. Airport Operations Manager Glenford Kidd said the numbers were available. Airport Manager John Lauth said the information will be sent to Ms. Cypser, and that Talon's numbers are included with those of many other charter flights in the Operations Report.

Ms. Nancy Cypser stated that Airport Director Anthony Ceglio was going to look into procedures a tenant goes through to become an FBO and asked to know the vetting process. Mr. Ceglio responded that requirements to become an FBO at Republic Airport are described in the Airport's *Minimum Standards for The Conduct of Aeronautical Activities*, which can be found on the Airport's website. He added that the purchase of an existing FBO must be submitted for approval to NYSDOT as required in the lease. The submittal is reviewed in accordance with the requirements contained in the published Minimum Standards including experience, personnel, and equipment. There is no requirement for a company to be an airline to purchase or become an FBO. The company must meet all requirements in the Airport's Minimum Standards.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo asked if the airport or any aircraft operators use a piece of equipment that runs at night. Households in her neighborhood started hearing a humming or vibrating sound beginning in mid-March, primarily at night. Is it coming from the airport? Commission Member Robert Bodenmiller said he believes the noise is coming from an asphalt plant on New Highway north of Conklin Street.

Ms. Cypser commented that she looks forward to having in-person meetings and that it is difficult to have a discussion in the Chat.

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REPUBLIC AIRPORT - OPERATIONS REPORT

JANUARY 2022 & TEN MONTHS YEAR-TO-DATE

		CURRENT MONTH				FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE			
		2021/22	2020/21	CHANGE	% Change	2021/22	2020/21	CHANGE	%Change
A.	TOTAL OPERATIONS (FAA)	14,287	15,898	(1,611)	-10.1%	214,454	140,226	74,228	52.9%
B.	LANDINGS BY TYPE AIRCRAFT (Ops)	4,460	5,325	(865)	-16.2%	69,528	53,295	16,233	30.5%
	Single Engine Piston	1,886	2,501	(615)	-24.6%	32,079	27,462	4,617	16.8%
	Multi Engine Piston	43	85	(42)	-49.4%	1,486	1,315	171	13.0%
	SUB-TOTAL	1,929	2,586	(657)	-25.4%	33,565	28,777	4,788	16.6%
	Turboprop	32	31	1	3.2%	785	643	142	22.1%
	Jet	784	810	(26)	-3.2%	8,610	5,811	2,799	48.2%
	Helicopter	98	84	14	16.7%	1,729	1,029	700	68.0%
	TOTALS	2,843	3,511	(668)	-19.0%	44,689	36,260	8,429	23.2%
C.	TOUCH & GO'S (Ops)								
	Single Engine Piston	1,588	1,805	(217)	-12.0%	24,253	16,764	7,489	44.7%
	Multi Engine Piston	9	0	9	900.0%	233	153	80	52.3%
	Turboprop	0	0	0	0.0%	3	3	0	0.0%
	Jet	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
	Helicopter	20	9	11	122.2%	350	115	235	204.3%
	TOTALS	1,617	1,814	(197)	-10.9%	24,839	17,035	7,804	45.8%
D.	PASSENGERS								
	Ultimate Jet Charters Inc.	679	848	(169)	-19.9%	9,923	5,491	4,432	80.7%
	TOTALS	679	848	(169)	-19.9%	9,923	5,491	4,432	80.7%
E.	BASED AIRCRAFT								
	Single Engine Piston	304	285	19	6.7%				
	Multi Engine Piston	47	42	5	11.9%				
	Turboprop	11	11	0	0.0%				
	Jet	85	80	5	6.3%				
	Helicopter	25	18	7	38.9%				
	TOTALS	472	436	36	8.3%				

REPUBLIC AIRPORT - OPERATIONS REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022 & ELEVEN MONTHS YEAR-TO-DATE

		CURRENT MONTH				FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE			
		2021/22	2020/21	CHANGE	% Change	2021/22	2020/21	CHANGE	%Change
A.	TOTAL OPERATIONS (FAA)	14,926	10,651	4,275	40.1%	229,380	150,877	78,503	52.0%
B.	LANDINGS BY TYPE AIRCRAFT (Ops)	4,863	3,822	1,041	27.2%	74,391	57,117	17,274	30.2%
	Single Engine Piston	2,261	1,652	609	36.9%	34,340	29,114	5,226	18.0%
	Multi Engine Piston	79	72	7	9.7%	1,565	1,387	178	12.8%
	SUB-TOTAL	2,340	1,724	616	35.7%	35,905	30,501	5,404	17.7%
	Turboprop	38	40	(2)	-5.0%	823	683	140	20.5%
	Jet	842	726	116	16.0%	9,452	6,537	2,915	44.6%
	Helicopter	102	94	8	8.5%	1,831	1,123	708	63.0%
	TOTALS	3,322	2,584	738	28.6%	48,011	38,844	9,167	23.6%
C.	TOUCH & GO'S (Ops)								
	Single Engine Piston	1,511	1,228	283	23.0%	25,764	17,992	7,772	43.2%
	Multi Engine Piston	12	4	8	200.0%	245	157	88	56.1%
	Turboprop	1	0	1	100.0%	4	3	1	33.3%
	Jet	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
	Helicopter	17	6	11	183.3%	367	121	246	203.3%
	TOTALS	1,541	1,238	303	24.5%	26,380	18,273	8,107	44.4%
D.	PASSENGERS								
	Ultimate Jet Charters Inc.	717	729	(12)	-1.6%	10,640	6,220	4,420	71.1%
	TOTALS	717	729	(12)	-1.6%	10,640	6,220	4,420	71.1%
E.	BASED AIRCRAFT								
	Single Engine Piston	303	285	18	6.3%				
	Multi Engine Piston	47	42	5	11.9%				
	Turboprop	11	11	0	0.0%				
	Jet	88	80	8	10.0%				
	Helicopter	25	18	7	38.9%				
	TOTALS	474	436	38	8.7%				

**REPUBLIC AIRPORT - AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT REPORT
JANUARY 2022 & TEN MONTHS YEAR-TO-DATE**

	CURRENT MONTH		FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE	
	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21
TOTAL AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS	18	28	974	362
I. TIME OF DAY				
Day	12	23	760	318
Night	6	5	212	43
Unknown	0	0	2	1
TOTAL BY TIME	18	28	974	362
II. TYPE OF AIRCRAFT/ USE				
Jet	10	10	372	115
Turboprop	0	0	5	4
Multi/ Single	5	9	351	131
Helicopter	0	0	33	13
Unknown	3	9	213	99
TOTAL BY TYPE	18	28	974	362
III. COMPLAINTS BY AREA				
North	1	0	53	8
Northwest	2	4	305	248
Northeast	1	0	23	4
South	0	0	31	1
Southwest	0	0	8	0
Southeast	9	9	177	16
East	1	0	9	10
West	4	15	368	71
Unknown	0	0	0	4
TOTAL BY AREA	18	28	974	362
IV. HOUSEHOLD TOTAL	8	8		
V. COMPLAINT BY RUNWAY				
Arrival 32	1	11	132	36
Departure 14	7	0	74	5
Arrival 14	1	1	172	74
Departure 32	3	1	92	47
Arrival 19	0	0	63	10
Departure 01	0	0	5	3
Arrival 01	1	0	16	8
Departure 19	0	0	14	2
Other *	2	6	191	78
Unknowns	3	9	215	99
TOTAL BY RUNWAY	18	28	974	362
VI. AIRCRAFT LOCATION				
Based	5	5	298	89
Transient	10	14	460	178
Unknown	3	9	216	95
TOTAL BY LOCATION	18	28	974	362

*Touch and Gos	
Rwy 14	2

**REPUBLIC AIRPORT - AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT REPORT
FEBRUARY 2022 & ELEVEN MONTHS YEAR-TO-DATE**

	CURRENT MONTH		FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE	
	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21
TOTAL AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS	29	41	1,003	403
I. TIME OF DAY				
Day	21	21	781	339
Night	8	20	220	63
Unknown	0	0	2	1
TOTAL BY TIME	29	41	1003	403
II. TYPE OF AIRCRAFT/ USE				
Jet	9	22	381	137
Turboprop	0	0	5	4
Multi/ Single	13	9	364	140
Helicopter	1	1	34	14
Unknown	6	9	219	108
TOTAL BY TYPE	29	41	1003	403
III. COMPLAINTS BY AREA				
North	6	3	59	11
Northwest	13	23	318	271
Northeast	0	0	23	4
South	2	0	33	1
Southwest	0	0	8	0
Southeast	2	13	179	29
East	0	0	9	10
West	6	2	374	73
Unknown	0	0	0	4
TOTAL BY AREA	29	41	1003	403
IV. HOUSEHOLD TOTAL	11	15		
V. COMPLAINT BY RUNWAY				
Arrival 32	3	6	135	42
Departure 14	1	2	75	7
Arrival 14	6	4	178	78
Departure 32	4	13	96	60
Arrival 19	0	0	63	10
Departure 01	1	0	6	3
Arrival 01	0	1	16	9
Departure 19	0	0	14	2
Other *	8	6	199	84
Unknowns	6	9	221	108
TOTAL BY RUNWAY	29	41	1003	403
VI. AIRCRAFT LOCATION				
Based	12	9	310	98
Transient	11	23	471	201
Unknown	6	9	222	104
TOTAL BY LOCATION	29	41	1003	403

*Touch and Gos	
RWY 14	1
RWY 19	6
RWY 32	1

REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING:

COMMISSION POLICY WITH RESPECT TO CARGO OPERATIONS AT REPUBLIC AIRPORT

WHEREAS, Republic Airport is an important regional asset, providing significant transportation and economic benefits to both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and

WHEREAS, Republic Airport has accommodated the region's need for an airport devoted to private and business aircraft, as well as charter and commuter operations, and

WHEREAS, Republic Airport's role, as a general aviation/reliever airport, is inconsistent with an airport operating with regularly scheduled cargo flights, and

WHEREAS, Republic Airport operates under a Class IV Operating Certificate issued by the FAA, and

WHEREAS, The use of Republic Airport predominately by single and twin engine piston aircraft, turboprop aircraft, helicopters and business/corporate jet aircraft *is* consistent with the airport's role as a general aviation/reliever airport and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Republic Airport Commission reaffirms its position that the New York State Department of Transportation should continue to operate Republic Airport under a Class IV Operating Certificate, with exceptions for emergency transport of donor organs, animal transports, and FEMA-related emergency aircraft operations associated with national emergencies or natural disasters, and is opposed to any cargo operations at Republic Airport.

RESOLUTION DISPOSTION

 X CARRIED
 FAILED TO CARRY
 TABLED

RESOLUTION VOTE

 6 FOR
 0 AGAINST
 0 ABSTAIN
 1 ABSENT

 7 TOTAL



Department of Transportation

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARIE THERESE DOMINGUEZ
Commissioner

RONALD L. EPSTEIN
Executive Deputy Commissioner
Chief Financial Officer

March 22, 2022

Tina Diamond, President raciviccoalition@gmail.com
Karen Williams, Vice President (Woodland Civic Assoc., Inc.)
Thomas Joseph, Jr., President (Residents of East Farmingdale Civic Assn)
Denis Garbo raciviccoalition@gmail.com
Michelle Insinga raciviccoalition@gmail.com
John Vogt raciviccoalition@gmail.com
John Lisi raciviccoalition@gmail.com

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the competitive award for parcel development at Republic Airport to Stratosphere Development Co. LLC (Stratosphere Development).

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) recognizes and appreciates the concerns raised by the Republic Airport Civic Coalition as they relate to Talon Air Inc., (Talon Air) an affiliated company of Stratosphere Development. Talon Air was neither a respondent to, nor awarded any rights under the competitive process. The designation for the competitively awarded parcel development was made directly to Stratosphere Development. NYSDOT's leases for those parcels are directly with Stratosphere Development, and not with any affiliated companies. The leases for parcel development have also been reviewed and approved by the Office of State Comptroller and the Attorney General of the State of New York. As such, the change in the partial ownership of Talon Air would have no impact on these leases.

I want to personally thank you for your unwavering commitment to ensuring the balance between optimizing the efficiency of the Airport while mitigating any impacts on the surrounding residential communities. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Anthony Ceglio at (631) 752-7707 or anthony.ceglio@dot.ny.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ronald Epstein", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Ronald Epstein
Executive Deputy Director

Cc: NY State Governor Kathy Hochul



The Republic Airport Civic Coalition for Integrity and Compliance

February 12, 2022

Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez
NYS Department of Transportation
Office of Integrated Modal Services
Aviation Bureau
50 Wolf Road, POD 5-4
Albany, New York 12232
Attn: Stratosphere Development Comments

Our group, the Republic Airport Civic Coalition for Integrity and Compliance, represents thousands of residents living within the vicinity of Republic Airport. Currently there is an evaluation of the environmental assessments necessary to begin the development of five parcels at Republic Airport. Our coalition would like to request that efforts on this assessment cease until the validity of the original award is reviewed.

Since the contracts for development were awarded in 2017, there have been several changes to the ownership of the companies involved. In essence, the companies that won the award are not the same companies that exist today. We believe this could impact their ability to obtain financing for the project, the original plans and intentions may have changed, banking and construction relationships may differ, and the assets securing any loans may have been diminished. A complete re-evaluation of this bidder needs to be conducted, so it is our belief that the entire project should be put out to bid again so that a proper examination of the winners can be performed.

To provide background, these are the facts as we understand them.

- On 2/3/17, the contract to develop 5 parcels was announced by the Empire State Development, on behalf of the NY State Department of Transportation. The award to Stratosphere Development Co. LLC, an affiliate of Talon Air, Inc. is mentioned several times throughout the announcement. The names Talon and Stratosphere are used interchangeably.
- In the spring of 2018 (approx.) Talon Air is sold to Apollo Jets, and is no longer a subsidiary of Stratosphere Development. This leads to the question of which company holds the rights to development of the 5 parcels, and if either of them is now large enough to carry out the requirements of the contract.
- 8/19/20 Talon Air Inc becomes an inactive corporation, as per the NY State Department of State. Specifically, Talon Air INC. was the company originally cited in the ESD announcement.
- 2021 – Apollo Jets, the majority owner of Talon, is acquired by Vista Global Holding, a company based in Dubai. They also acquire the minority interest in Talon. Since Talon is now foreign owned, they may not qualify for tax abatements to be negotiated with the ESD.

There was some question in 2016, and a lawsuit brought at that time, in regard to the integrity of this award. Originally, other companies had been conditionally granted the development contracts but were later passed over in favor of Talon/Stratosphere.

In light of the ownership changes and questions arising from the original granting of all five parcels to one developer, creating an imbalance of influence at the airport, we request that this process begin again from the start. At the very least, since the new developers currently are largely unknown to the ESD and NYDOT, they should be carefully evaluated to be sure they can actually complete this project.

We look to you for guidance and assistance in this matter.

Respectfully submitted by,

Concerned Citizens of Farmingdale
Tina Diamond – President

Residents of E. Farmingdale Civic
Thomas Joseph Jr. - President

The Woodland Civic Association
Karen Williams - President

The Lighthouse Point Civic Association
Denis Garbo - President

American Venice Civic Association
Michele Insinga / John Vogt

The Daniel Street Civic Association and Heer Park/Meridale Civic Association
John Lisi – President

CC: NY State Governor Kathy Hochul
Empire State Development
Letitia James, NYS Attorney General
U. S. Senator Charles Schumer
U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Congressman Andrew Garbarino
Congresswoman Kathleen Rice
Congressman Thomas Suozzi
Congressman Lee Zeldin
N.Y.S. Senator Phil Boyle
N.Y.S. Senator John Brooks
Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone
Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer
Dave Fish - Director, FAA Eastern Region, NY Airport District Ofc.
Mr. Frank Nocerino, Chairman, R.A.C.
Keldy Ortiz, Newsday
Denise Bonilla, Newsday

We can be contacted at woodlandcivicassoc@gmail.com.