



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

Friday, January 21, 2011

MONROE COUNTY DISCLOSES RESULTS OF INTERNAL REVIEW OF MCAA SPENDING & PROCEDURES

Review of Airport Authority Travel and Business Expenses Confirms Problematic Expenditures; Brooks Condemns Inappropriate Spending, Recovers Funds.

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today released the results of a recent review of travel and business expenditures made on behalf of the Monroe County Airport Authority (MCAA). **Brooks** directed the review to ultimately ensure that all Authority-incurred expenses are absolutely necessary, appropriate, and fiscally responsible.

“Although the Authority’s revenue is not drawn from taxpayer resources, Monroe County strongly believes that its expenditures must be necessary and directly related to fulfilling the core mission and function of the MCAA to be considered appropriate,” said **Brooks**. *“In directing a stringent review of the Authority’s books, I assured our community that Monroe County would assist the MCAA in upholding the highest level of accountability. With our internal review now complete, I am following through on our promise of transparency by making its findings available to the public.”*

The review, carried out by County finance experts, was completed with the full cooperation of the MCAA’s Board of Directors and staff. In addition to confirming previously-known questionable expenditures, the review also revealed that the former Director of Aviation for the MCAA used an Authority-issued credit card to patronize an adult entertainment venue from 2007 to 2008. The expenses incurred during these visits totaled \$3,988. Monroe County has successfully recovered these funds, in full, from the former Director of Aviation, David P. Damelio, who resigned his position on January 3rd, 2011.

“The expenditures revealed by Monroe County’s internal review are, without question, inherently inappropriate. In no uncertain terms, I condemn this misuse of MCAA funds, and question the poor judgment that led to these expenses,” said **Brooks**. *“Because the MCAA exists to serve the public’s interest, its funds are ultimately public dollars. As such, Monroe County has acted swiftly to recover the money in full. Additionally, the multi-faceted oversight and review measures presented to the MCAA by Monroe County will now hold expenses to the highest level of scrutiny, ultimately ensuring that all future expenditures will be absolutely necessary, appropriate, and fiscally responsible.”*

The inappropriate expenditures revealed through the County’s internal review will now be prohibited by a set of strict new oversight and ethics reform policies set forth by County Executive **Brooks** to the Monroe County Airport Authority Board of Directors,

Brooks Releases Results of Airport Probe

ensuring that this sort of inappropriate expenditure can never be made again. The policies include:

- **Prohibition of Alcohol and Tobacco Purchases.** It has been determined that the use of alcohol and tobacco for business development purposes is not essential to the business of the Authority. Therefore, an authorized individual acting on behalf of the Authority is prohibited from using Authority funds to purchase alcohol and tobacco.
- **Strict Definitions of Allowable Expenses; Enhanced Reporting Requirements.** All business and travel expenses incurred must be reasonable, cost-effective and necessary for the business of the Authority. More specifically, the expenses must be appropriate for the advancement of the interests of the Authority as set forth in State Law. Detailed, itemized expense reports including receipts and a justification for the expense must be provided to the Treasurer no later than ten (10) days after the expense is incurred.
- **Transparent, Two-Tiered Expense Approvals Process.** All business and travel expenses incurred must be approved by the Treasurer and subsequently approved by the Board. Expenses will be presented publically to the Board during each meeting, ensuring transparency and accountability in all transactions. In the event that an expense is rejected by the Board, the individual who incurred the expense must reimburse the Authority within ten (10) days of the Board meeting.

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