Airport Commission

TO: AIRPORT COMMISSIONERS   **DATE: JUNE 13, 2024**

FROM: GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT   **WARD: 3**

SUBJECT: AIRPORT MANAGER'S OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITY REPORT

ISSUE:

Receive the June 2024 Airport Manager's Operations and Activity Report, which includes January-April 2024 aircraft operations data, July 2023-April 2024 financial data, and review of airport highlights and events.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Airport Commission receive this June 2024 Airport Manager's Operations and Activity Report.

BACKGROUND:

The Airport Manager's Operation and Activity Report is provided to inform the Airport Commission (Commission) about operations, City Council actions, events, meetings and other issues concerning the Riverside Municipal Airport (Airport).

DISCUSSION:

This update includes information about Airport operations, financials, and a proposal to rename the Airport.

Key Operational and Financial Statistics

Aircraft Operations:

Aircraft Operations (Takeoffs and Landings)			
Prior Year Quarter Versus Current Year Quarter	**Jan-Apr 2023**	**Jan-Apr 2024**	**Year to Date**
	40,926	46,608	+13.9%
Prior Year Month Versus Current Year Month	**April 2023**	**April 2024**	
	11,565	12,828	+10.9%

NOTE: FAA air traffic statistics are reported on a calendar year basis

Aircraft operational activity continues to grow, with double-digit percentage increases for the first four months of the calendar year versus the same four months in the prior year, as well a current year month versus prior year month comparison. Although April had some inclement weather, overall, the month enjoyed many good flying days. It is anticipated that the number of aircraft operations will continue to improve, creating a path to another record year of aircraft operations at Riverside Municipal Airport.

Financials:

Airport Financials July 01, 2023 – April 30, 2024				
	OPERATING BUDGET	ACTUAL	% TO GOAL	Projection Through End of FY
Expenditures[1]	$ 1,890,986.09	$ 1,628,204.73	86.1%[3]	$1,780,765
Revenues[2]	$ 1,741,317.00	$ 1,719,697.87	98.8%	$1,915,448
[1] Includes adjustments and encumbrances [2] Preliminary figures as of 4/124 [3] 83.33% complete with FY				

Due to some operational efficiency improvements in certain areas (including installation of LED lighting in the terminal and new LED ramp lighting), as well as hiring a fourth Airport Operations Specialist, both personnel and non-personnel costs increased, resulting in expenditures tracking 3% above budget. However, we remain dedicated to controlling expenses and anticipate finishing the current fiscal year at or below budget. We continue to experience an increase in revenues which are currently tracking approximately 15% above budget. Revenue increases are primarily due to increased café revenue share, 98% occupancy of city-owned hangars, and additional ground leases. We anticipate ending the fiscal year with revenues coming in significantly above budget.

Highlights

Proposal to Rename Airport

The Airport continues to explore alternatives to elevate the airport clientele and generate additional revenues.

The "Municipal" designation in the Airport's name, owing to the City's ownership and operation, while once well-respected, now has a "small airport" connotation. This does not effectively attract new business or indicate the airport is in growth mode and seeking additional based tenants, including business aviation operators and aeronautical businesses.

Southern California airports that share a "Municipal" name tend to be small and somewhat limited in their potential to attract new business:

- California City Municipal Airport (California City, California)
- Corona Municipal Airport (Corona, California)
- Hawthorne Municipal Airport (Hawthorne Municipal)
- Redlands Municipal Airport (Redlands, California)
- Santa Barbara Municipal (Santa Barbara, California)
- Tehachapi Municipal Airport (Tehachapi, California)

Solution

To generate renewed enthusiasm for the Airport and attract the interest of business aviation operators, as well as promote the Westside development with a second fixed base operator (FBO), it is appropriate to rename the Airport to:

Riverside Executive Airport

Proposed Slogan: Where Innovation Takes Flight

General Aviation airports, such as RAL, that have transitioned to an "Executive" airport have reported great success with their re-branding.

A sampling of executive airports across the include:

- Austin Executive Airport (Austin, Texas)
- Chandler Executive Airport (Fresno, California)
- Chicago Executive Airport (Chicago, Illinois)
- Dallas Executive Airport (Dallas, Texas)
- Flagler Executive Airport (Palm Coast, Florida)
- Fort Lauderdale Executive (Fort Lauderdale, Florida)
- Hayward Executive Airport (Hayward, California)
- Henderson Executive Airport (Henderson, Nevada)
- Houston Executive Airport (Houston, Texas)
- Miami Executive Airport (Miami, Florida)

- Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport (San Diego, California)
- Orlando Executive Airport (Orlando, Florida)
- Sacramento Executive Airport (Sacramento, California)
- Tampa Executive Airport (Tampa, Florida)

Costs/Requirements

There will be some costs associated with the name change and re-branding, although costs will be well managed.

Local

- Notify contract Air Traffic Control Tower.
- Notify Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission.
- Notify airport tenants.
- Notify press/media through City of Riverside Public Information Officer.
- Notify city leadership to update city records.
- Update city/airport website.
- Install banner with new name.
- Order new business cards for all seven airport employees.
- Order new airport letterhead stationery.
- Order new airport signs.
- Change employee email signatures blocks.
- Install new marquee at airport entrance (Arlington).

Total airport local costs: $55,000 (includes a new marquee and full color LED sign at airport entrance).

State

- Notify Cal Trans Aeronautics

Total airport costs to state: $0

Federal

- Notify FAA to update all flight charting and navigation databases.
- Notify FAA Airport District Office (ADO).
- Notify FAA Western Pacific Runway Safety office for updates to "From the Flight Deck" video.

Total airport costs to federal: $0

Summary

In sum, as the Airport embarks on an ambitious capital development plan and develops the Westside with new aircraft hangars, a second FBO, and significantly enlarged ramp area, it is

an appropriate time to re-brand the Airport into Riverside Executive Airport. This action should create additional interest in the Airport, secure additional based tenants, secure new business aviation operators, and create a timely "buzz" about the future growth of the Airport.

Recent City Council and Committee Actions:

- Reject all bids for South Terminal and GA Apron Rehabilitation Project. Two bids were received and low bid of $916,505.25 exceeded engineer's cost estimate by $341,155.25, subsequently exceeding available FAA funding.

Upcoming City Council and Committee Actions:

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The **AIRPORT MANAGER'S OPERATION AND ACTIVITY REPORT** contributes to Strategic Priority No. 5 *High Performing Government* and Goal No. 5.3 – Enhance communication and collaboration with community members to improve transparency, build public trust, and encourage shared decision-making.

This item aligns with EACH of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** - The Airport fosters community trust by regularly reviewing federal guidelines and regulations to ensure operational safety.

2. **Equity** – The Riverside Municipal Airport ensures equitable access to Airport resources.

3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – This Report provides information describing the financial status of the Airport as a snapshot in time and compares that picture with past performance.

4. **Innovation** – This Report provides a timely account of activities undertaken to ensure the Airport is well-situated for future growth.

5. **Sustainability and Resiliency** – This Report provides information to the community on the Airport's investment in safeguarding Airport resources and assets.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with receiving this monthly activity report.

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Approved by: Edward Enriquez, Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial
                  Officer/Treasurer

Attachment: Presentation