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**Gary / Chicago International Airport Announces Newest Member of Airport Authority**

*Steve Mays Appointment Marks Return to GCIAG Authority, Replacing Former Commissioner Bill Cook*

**(Gary, IN – February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024)** – The Gary / Chicago International Airport (GCIAG) announced the appointment of local businessman and community leader Steve Mays to serve on the GCIAG Authority, or board of directors. Mr. Mays was appointed by City of Gary Mayor Eddie Melton. The appointment marks the return to the Authority by Mr. Mays, who previously served as the Authority Chairman from 2015 – 2018 and had served as a commissioner until 2022. Mr. Mays replaces former Commissioner William “Bill” Cook, who recently resigned his position on the authority, and will serve out the remainder of the former commissioner’s four (4) year term. The seven (7) members of the GCIAG Authority are appointed to 4-year terms by the Governor of Indiana, the City of Gary and Lake and Porter Counties, respectively.

“We are pleased to welcome Mr. Mays back to the GCIAG Authority and would like to thank Mayor Melton for his appointment,” **said GCIAG Chairman Pete Visclosky.** “Mr. Mays brings valuable institutional knowledge regarding our airport, and we look forward to working closely with Mr. Mays as we continue to grow our aviation offerings.”

GCIAG has seen significant growth over the past decade, including the 2015 expansion of the airport’s main runway to nearly 9,000 feet, making it the region’s second longest after O’Hare International Airport (ORD). The runway expansion allows GCIAG to service larger and heavier aircraft, up to and including a 777, one of the largest planes operating globally. GCIAG also opened its premier U.S. Customs and Border Protection Facility in late 2018, allowing international travelers to frequent GCIAG without first needing to clear customs elsewhere.

Mr. Mays returns to the airport at a time of considerable growth and expansion. In 2020, GCIAG began cargo service operations via the UPS, who signed a long-term lease agreement. Cargo service operations have quickly scaled, and GCIAG now ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State of Indiana on its freight volume, with further growth anticipated in coming years.

In 2022, GCIAG received formal FAA approvals for its Master Plan, a document that will guide the next several decades of airport development and growth. In late 2023, GCIAG announced the acquisition of the Griffith-Merrillville Airport, with this now providing additional operations capacity for GCIAG and making it one of three (3) aviation systems in the State of Indiana.

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**About Gary/Chicago International Airport**

*Located minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GCIAG) is a full-service airport and a premiere destination for corporate and weekend flyers in the Chicago metropolitan region and Northwest Indiana. In 2020, UPS began its Next Day Air Service operations at GCIAG. To learn more, visit the airport’s new website at [www.flyggy.com](http://www.flyggy.com).*