



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Adam Gypalo

312-768-4730 (office)

adam.gypalo@resolutepublicaffairs.com

Gary / Chicago International Airport Authority Elects 2026 Leadership

Premier Regional Airport Leadership Provides Added Continuity for New Year

(Gary, IN – January 28th, 2026) – At their monthly board meeting earlier this afternoon, the [Gary / Chicago International Airport \(GCIA\)](#) Authority, the board of directors for the region’s premier mid-sized airport, elected their 2026 leadership by a unanimous vote. The Authority (GCIAA) is a seven (7) member board that has oversight on all airport policies, operations and budget. The Authority commissioners are appointed to 4-year terms by an intra-governmental agreement, with the Authority Chairman appointed by the Governor of Indiana, four (4) commissioners appointed by the Mayor of the City of Gary and a commissioner appointed by Lake and Porter Counties, respectively.

The 2026 [GCIA Authority](#) is as follows:

- **Tom Collins, Jr**, Chairman (State of Indiana Governor Appointee)
- **Stephen Mays**, Vice President (City of Gary Mayoral Appointee)
- **William Godwin**, Secretary (City of Gary Mayoral Appointee)
- **Tyrone Hamilton**, Commissioner (City of Gary Mayoral Appointee)
- **Dr. Vanessa McCloud**, Commissioner (City of Gary Mayoral Appointee)
- **Philip Mullins**, Commissioner (Lake County Appointee)
- **Ronald “Red” Stone**, Commissioner (Porter County Appointee)

GCIA 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 GCIA to service larger and heavier aircraft, up to and including a 777, one of the largest planes operating globally. GCIA also opened its premier U.S. Customs and Border Protection Facility in late 2018, allowing international travelers to frequent GCIA without first needing to clear customs elsewhere.

In 2020, GCIA began cargo service operations via the UPS, who signed a long-term lease agreement. Cargo service operations have quickly scaled, and GCIA now ranks 3rd in the State of Indiana on its freight volume, with further growth anticipated in coming years.

In 2022, GCIA 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, GCIA announced the acquisition of the Griffith-



Merrillville Airport, with this now capacity for GCIAG and making it one of of Indiana.

providing additional operations three (3) aviation systems in the State

###