

Resolution on the Future of Charlotte Douglas International Airport

Whereas the City of Charlotte is committed to the continued superior performance of the Charlotte Douglas International Airport;

Whereas Oliver Wyman concluded:

- “Charlotte has been a spectacularly successful airport in most regards, including its low cost, high service quality, and prudent financial management.” (Oliver Wyman, p. 51);
- “Charlotte Airport is the most unlikely candidate for a change in governance of any of its peers” (Ibid, p. 51);
- “The issues/incidents raised as evidence that the Airport needs to be governed under a different structure not only are readily fixable, but the City’s interested in fixing them” (Ibid, p.52); and

Whereas legislation introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly “in its current form does not provide best industry practices for a properly structured airport authority nor for a smooth transition to an airport authority” (Ibid, p.54);

Now therefore be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Charlotte:

1. That the City Council supports an airport governance structure that best achieves the objectives of keeping the Charlotte Douglas International Airport as one of the best performing and lowest cost major hub airports;
2. The City Manager is hereby directed to fully evaluate the following items, to act as appropriate, and/or make recommendations to implement best practices in the following areas:
 - a. Airport finances, ensuring that finances are completely separated from that of the city/county/state.
 - b. Contracts, ensuring that the airport contracts and pays for only the services it needs and uses, including services from the city, county, or state.
 - c. Procurement, ensuring that policies that are nimble and ensure low costs, competitiveness and integrity.
 - d. Human resources, ensuring a compensation system that enables the airport to attract and retain top talent.
 - e. Public safety and security, ensuring the most cost effective and functionally effective method of service is provided inside the terminal as well as on the public and airfield grounds.

In conducting this work, the City Manager shall engage stakeholders, and

3. That the City Council will vigorously resist any outside, unilateral changes to the airport that threaten the city’s investment and that could result in a reduction in performance and increases in the cost of operating the airport.