



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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BROOKS SETS NEW LEVEL OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MONROE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Innovative new spending policies and strict oversight measures will govern all travel and business expenses; Changes effective immediately.

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today presented a set of strict new oversight and ethics reform policies to the Monroe County Airport Authority Board of Directors for their consideration and approval. The reform plan, designed to guide and assist the Authority in maintaining the highest possible level of accountability, transparency, and integrity in conducting Airport business, will govern all travel and business expenses effective immediately. **Brooks** also urged the board to adopt a resolution that would require annual ethics training for all board members.

“As County Executive, when I evaluate the performance of the Greater Rochester International Airport, I look first and foremost to customer satisfaction. In this regard, there is no question that the Airport has performed at an extremely high level. Yet, Monroe County can, and will, always strive to hold ourselves to a higher level of accountability,” said **Brooks**. *“To ensure the Airport is performing at the highest possible level, I have recommended strict new oversight policies to govern all travel and business expenses incurred by the Airport and its officers. I am pleased that the Airport Authority Board has embraced these measures with open arms, and is taking necessary action to ensure that Airport business is fully transparent and accountable to the public.”*

Brooks also praised the staff and leadership of the Greater Rochester International Airport for its success in securing reduced airfares, attracting new low-cost carriers and flights, and developing one of the most affordable, convenient, and state-of-the-art airport facilities in the country. However, **Brooks** did remind the board that the public’s trust has been challenged during the recent developments concerning the management of the Authority’s finances, and the time had come to embrace a new era of transparency and accountability for the Airport Authority.

“I think we can all acknowledge today that we must, and we will, do a better job in exercising the appropriate level of oversight of Authority finances,” concluded **Brooks**. *“I am confident that we can enhance the public’s trust in our ability to maintain a state-of-the-art, affordable Airport facility that our entire community can be proud of.”*

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Among the policies presented to the Board today by County Executive **Brooks**;

- **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.

Brooks also proposed that the Board review and approve all credit card statements at its public meetings to ensure full transparency and accountability in the use of credit cards.

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