



*News From*

# **Maggie Brooks**

## *Monroe County Executive*

**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, October 18, 2012

### **BROOKS ANNOUNCES SOUTHWEST AIRLINES TO LAUNCH OPERATIONS IN APRIL 2013**

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today announced that Southwest Airlines plans to convert existing AirTran Airways operations at the Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC) in April of 2013.

*“As County Executive, I am incredibly proud to announce the exciting news that our Greater Rochester International Airport will be converted to a fully-functional Southwest Airlines market this coming spring,”* said **Brooks**. *“Our airport is already one of the most affordable and outstanding facilities of its size in the nation, and Southwest’s presence here will do even more to expand on that success. I would like to thank Southwest Airlines for working collaboratively with Monroe County and the Airport Authority Board during this process to keep our airport as this community’s ‘Gateway to the World.’”*

ROC is one of four cities in the nation that Southwest Airlines will convert operations to in April of 2013, as part of its ongoing merger with AirTran. Currently, 18% of all passengers out of ROC use AirTran Airways, making it the third most-traveled airline out of our community. The airline averages six non-stop flights per day from ROC, with connections to major hubs across the nation.

AirTran Airways, a wholly owned subsidiary of Southwest Airlines, currently offers daily non-stop flights between Rochester and Atlanta, Baltimore, Orlando and Tampa.

**Brooks** will be available today to comment on the announcement, please call the Department of Communications to make arrangements.

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