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After a year of growth at the Airport, Manager returns to Detroit

GARY (August 25, 2015) – Gary/Chicago International Airport manager Delbert Brown announced he will resign from his position after a year at the airport effective August 31, 2015. Brown has completed the significant objective of successfully positioning the airport for growth, and now plans to return to his home in Detroit, Michigan to spend more time with his family.

“I thank Delbert for his work this past year through the transition of the public-private partnership, and laying the foundation for continued growth at Gary/Chicago International Airport,” said AvPORTS president and CEO Ozzie Moore. “I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.”

Assistant airport manager Hank Mook will continue in his current position and will assist AvPORTS Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Tom Bartlett, who will lead the AvPORTS team on the ground while candidates to replace Brown are screened. Airport director Dan Vicari will continue to manage the public-private partnership agreement and report progress directly to the board of the Gary/Chicago International Airport Authority.

AvPORTS, the airport management company that entered into a public-private partnership with the airport in January 2014, plans to advertise the position in a number of local, regional and industry/management forums, including the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE).

Brown became airport manager in July 2014. Throughout the past year, he represented the airport at a number of community and city events, and helped coordinate efforts for both the successful Gary Air Show and the Chicago Air and Water Show. Both shows utilized Gary/Chicago International Airport as a staging area for their various acts. In addition, he implemented a reporting structure to help assess existing assets, track anticipated needs, and provide real-time information on operations at the airport, which allowed the public to monitor airport progress. During his tenure as airport manager, Brown introduced numerous best practices and oversaw a 33 percent increase in operations at the airport.

With the runway now completed, and these AvPORTS best practices implemented to enhance the effectiveness of the daily operations of the airport, AvPORTS will now seek a candidate to implement the next phase of its partnership with the City and the Authority - marketing the re-invigorated airport and recruiting new services and economic development opportunities to Gary.

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