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Media Contact:

Adam Gypalo

O: 312-768-4730

M: 847-975-8966

adam.gypalo@resolutepublicaffairs.com

Gary / Chicago International Airport Announces New Airport Manager

Key Hire Brings Wealth of Operations Experience to Chicago's 3rd Official Airport

(Gary, IN – February 3rd, 2021) The Gary / Chicago International Airport (GCIA) announced the hiring of Charles H. Sweet II, C.M., as the new airport manager for the Chicago region's 3rd official airport. Mr. Sweet is an aviation professional who works for AvPORTS, the private entity that oversees airport operations. Previously, he was Deputy Airport Director at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, WI and was an Airport Superintendent at Sheboygan (WI) Memorial Airport. Mr. Sweet is also a veteran of the United States Air Force, where he served as a Construction Project Inspector & Airfield Management Specialist.

"I'm excited to join the well-supported team at AvPORTS and to lead the Gary/Chicago International Airport into the future," **Sweet said.** "I look forward to getting into the trenches with the good people who work at GCIA, to learn from them and together chase excellence. An airport that maximizes its potential is not only good for business, but important for the community of Northwest Indiana and our neighbors in the Chicago Metropolitan Area."

Mr. Sweet comes to GCIA during a period when the airport is experiencing sustained growth and investment. The airport recently signed a long-term lease agreement with United Parcel Service (UPS) for cargo operations, with the initial operations having begun in November 2020. Recent years have also seen the creation of a brand new, state-of-the-art U.S. Customs and Border Protection Facility, allowing airport users to fly in from any worldwide destination without first needing to land at another airport to clear customs elsewhere.

"We are looking forward to working with Mr. Sweet," **said Timothy Fesko, Chairman of the Gary/Chicago International Airport Authority.** "The airport has seen significant growth and investment over the past several years. We feel Mr. Sweet has the experience and commitment to continue solidifying our role as the Chicago region's third official airport while being the premier mid-sized airport in the Greater Midwest."

In 2015, the main runway was expanded and now totals nearly 9,000 feet, giving Gary the second longest runway in the region after O'Hare International Airport and enabling the airport to service larger aircraft than Midway can accommodate. Since the runway's completion, airport operations are up nearly 15 percent, fuel revenue is up 82 percent and revenue derived from landing fees is up by over 140 percent.

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“We are thrilled to welcome Charles Sweet to our Gary/Chicago International Airport family,” **said Duane Hayden, Executive Director of GCI A.** “His experience, professionalism and level of prior commitment to both the airports and the communities they serve will be a strong addition to our airport and we look forward to working together.”

“After an exhaustive search, we are thrilled to welcome Charles to the Gary/Chicago International Airport family. His vision for GCI A, drive for excellence, and love of people will accelerate the airport’s growth and maximize its potential,” **said Jorge Roberts, CEO of AvPORTS,** the service provider overseeing airport operations. “We look forward to working together as we continue to ensure the safest possible air travel and the highest level of service at GCI A.”

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About Gary/Chicago International Airport

Located minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GCI A) is a full-service airport and a premiere destination for corporate and weekend flyers in the Chicago metropolitan region and Northwest Indiana. In 2020, UPS began its Next Day Air Service operations at GCI A. To learn more, visit the airport’s new website at [FlyGYY.com](https://www.flygcy.com).