



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Airports Division
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July 3, 2017

Mr. Dave Carmichael, Chairman
Paulding County Board of Commissioners
240 Constitution Boulevard
Dallas, GA 30132

Mr. Boyd Austin, Chairman
Paulding County Airport Authority
730 Airport Parkway
Dallas, GA 30157

Dear Messrs. Carmichael and Austin:

Over the past two and a half years, we have received various letters from local officials and legal counsel purporting to represent the Paulding County Board of Commissioners or the Paulding County Airport Authority, co-Sponsors of Paulding Northwest Atlanta Airport. Contradictions within and among these letters have left the FAA with serious concerns about the ability of the County and the Authority to satisfactorily perform their obligations as sponsors of a federally-obligated airport.

The FAA expects sponsors to be clear and consistent in their communications and management of an airport. It is not the FAA's responsibility to resolve disputes between discordant co-sponsors, nor should we be forced to determine whether a particular correspondent is, in fact, a duly authorized representative of the entity for whom he claims to speak.

Both co-sponsors continue to express opposing views about introducing commercial service at the airport and other matters. These disputes, and all the resulting local litigation, are impeding the airport's development and, potentially, its safe and efficient operation. The FAA has invested \$42 million in the airport in reliance on the sponsors' commitments to manage the airport in the most effective and efficient way possible. Under the circumstances, it does not appear that the County and the Authority are abiding by these commitments.

Please consider this letter as notice that, going forward, the FAA will respond only to joint communications submitted by, or on behalf of, both co-sponsors. We firmly believe this action is in the best interest of the airport, the FAA, and the public and we will make no exceptions until further notice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Hicks", written in a cursive style.

Steven E. Hicks,
Director
Airports Division, Southern Region

cc: Atlanta Airports District Office
Office of Airport Compliance and Management Analysis