



Alfred S. Austin Chairman  
Stephen J. Mitchell Vice Chairman  
Ken Anthony Secretary  
Hillsborough County Commissioner Thomas Scott Treasurer  
City of Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

For information  
Brenda S. Geoghagan Director of Public Information and Community Relations  
813-870-8707

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Aviation Authority Expands Airport Management Team**

**TAMPA, FL (July 21, 2005)** – The Aviation Authority has expanded its executive team which oversees the management and operations of all publicly owned airports within Hillsborough County which includes Tampa International, Peter O. Knight, Vandenberg and Plant City Airports. The new positions consist of a Director of Governmental & Legislative Affairs and a Director of General Aviation.

Darcy A. Foster was selected as Director of Governmental & Legislative Affairs which is a newly created in-house position for the Airport. She has extensive experience in developing legislative objectives, coordinating lobbying efforts, intergovernmental relations and public affairs. Additionally, she possesses an in-depth knowledge of governmental and community relations and the procedures of the legislative and executive branches of government.

Reporting directly to Louis E. Miller, Executive Director, she will be responsible for coordinating the Aviation Authority's federal, state and local inter-governmental relations activities and promoting its' interest with regard to legislation which could have an impact on the Aviation Authority. She will be responsible for monitoring pertinent federal, state and local proposals throughout the legislative process and notifying the Airport of potential operational or administrative impacts.

Utilizing lobbying techniques she will attend or monitor relevant federal and state legislative committee meetings, as well as local, regional and national meetings and conferences concerning issues impacting the Airport. Also, she will be developing federal and state legislative and funding initiatives and collating the final results of legislative action.

Ms. Foster earned her undergraduate degree at Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Science in Public Administration, with emphasis on State and Local Government, at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Since January 2003, she has served as the manager of intergovernmental relations for the Hillsborough

**-more-**

News Release  
July 21, 2005  
Page Two

County Office of Public Affairs representing the board of county commissioners. Previously, she was a strategic planning manager and planning policy analyst for the City of Tampa.

During the 2005 Florida Legislative session, the Aviation Authority identified 75 bills that could potentially affect the business of the Airport. There were 14 bills that passed the Legislature with 10 bills being approved by the Governor.

Paul A. Phillips, A.A.E., joins the Airport team as Director of General Aviation. He has over 23 years of public service to St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Lee Counties, Florida. For the last six years, he has served as Airport Director at St. Lucie County International Airport where he administered an annual \$1.2 million development budget and coordinated a staff of six to manage over 3,600 acres of airport property, including over 165,000 square feet of lease and owner occupied buildings.

Reporting to Edward B. Cooley III, Senior Director of Operations and Public Safety, this position is responsible for directing the operations and maintenance of the Aviation Authority's general aviation airports and for coordinating the activities of the fixed base operator tenants.

He will be overseeing the maintenance of airfields, buildings, equipment, and utilities at all general aviation airports. And coordinating and supervising the Authority personnel assigned to general aviation, including administrative, operations and maintenance.

Additionally, Mr. Phillips will be in charge of maintaining a professional and cooperative relationship with tenants, fixed base operators, local community and government groups, and associations with interest in general aviation.

Mr. Phillips received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Master of Business Administration at the University of South Florida, Fort Myers, Florida, in 1990 and 1995 respectfully. In 1995, he also received his Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) status from the American Association of Airport Executives.

Both Foster and Phillips started their new staff positions on July 18, 2005.

###

Louis E. Miller Executive Director

Hillsborough County Aviation Authority PO. Box 22287, Tampa, Florida 33622 phone 813-870-8700 fax 813-875-6670 web site [www.TampaAirport.com](http://www.TampaAirport.com)  
Peter O. Knight Airport Plant City Airport Vandenberg Airport