

## **PDK Watch Newsletter, February, 2000**

What is Going on at PDK?

Recently an Internet website advertised that Delta Staffing Services had Airline-Customer Service positions available at PDK Airport. The ad stated "Any individual with 5 or more years experience with Crew Scheduling, Airline Customer Service, Ticket Counter Experience or CRT experience this is the job for you. A new start up airline operating here in Atlanta is looking for 3 Crew Scheduling and 10 Customer Service people."

A phone call to PDK Airport brought a denial of a commercial airline operating at the airport. Next a phone call to Delta led to the contact person at Delta Staffing Services. When the contact person was informed that the airport had denied any knowledge of the new airline, the reply was that it was secretive and that any applicant would have to sign a confidentiality agreement prior to an interview. Also, that a planned press conference had been canceled due to loss of power during the ice storm, but one was being rescheduled to ensure TV coverage.

Commissioner Gale Walldorff said she was told that Delta Staffing Services, a subsidiary of Delta, also contracts to companies other than Delta. This ad was for a company, not Delta, offering an on-call charter service. However, she could not define on-call charter service.

Airport Director Lee Rimmel said a private firm will have small aircraft with 6 to 8 seats that are privately chartered, and it is not scheduled service, but on-call charter only.

The next phone call made to Delta Staffing Services revealed that eleven people had been hired and the ad removed. A few days later another phone call was made to Delta Staffing Services. This time the contact person said jobs at PDK had never been advertised; it was just a rumor.

The questions are: What is going on? Why the secrecy? What is on-call charter?

Airport Expansion Needs to Be Addressed

DeKalb County's commitment to no further expansion of DeKalb-Peachtree Airport seems to apply only to the area or perimeter of the airport, not to airport operations. In response to specific questions about airport expansion from one citizen, CEO Liane Levetan replied in a letter:

"There are a number of problems associated with the term airport expansion. I can tell you that we want to operate a safe airport. We do not have any plans to expand the existing boundaries of PDK to my knowledge."

DeKalb County has not explicitly addressed internal expansion. Expansion of airport operations can take place within the present PDK perimeter to the detriment of property

values and other quality of life issues in North DeKalb County. (Remember PDK is larger in area than La Guardia.) If the integrity of the community is to be maintained, it is imperative that both strict PDK policy and strict PDK accountability be instituted through the appropriate public process. Only then can the citizens be protected from the effects of incremental growth.

#### Update on Buyout Land Becoming Greenspace

At the January 2000 Airport Advisory Board meeting, Airport Director Lee Rimmel stated that the FAA wants the county to sell property purchased through the noise abatement program. County commissioners have repeatedly said that airport property along Clairmont Road will be used as greenspace, and Commissioners Gale Walldorff and Judy Yates restated this pledge at the Airport Advisory Board meeting this month.

#### Hangar Lease for Sale?

Remember the rush to rezone property last year for construction of a hangar? While the hangar has yet to be built, rumor has it that the lease is for sale for more than a \$1 million. Keep in mind that as per the terms of the lease DeKalb County collected \$250 per month during Phase I (October 1996 through October 1999). Nice deal, but not for DeKalb taxpayers!

#### PDK Watch Needs Your Support

PDK Watch is grateful to those of you who send in a check to help with the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. To contribute to this fund, please make a check payable to Sven O. Lovegren and note on the check that it is for PDK Watch. Then please mail to:

Sven O. Lovegren

Attn.: PDK Watch

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