

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION CITY OF CHICAGO

October 9, 2020

Mr. Paul Lark O'Hare International Airport P.O. Box 66581 Chicago, IL 60666

SENT VIA EMAIL: plark@igcinc.org

Dear Mr. Lark:

The impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been unprecedented and catastrophic for the aviation industry. As you know, our operations, like those of other airports globally, continue to be affected by the sudden and sharp decline in international and domestic aviation passenger traffic. This drop has forced air carriers to adjust their schedules and continue to make short-notice changes to scheduled air service. The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) recognizes these challenges and their impacts on allocating facilities for current and future air service.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) addressed the impact of COVID-19 in a March 2020 notice addressing usage requirements in accordance with recommendations from International Air Transport Association (IATA). On March 11, 2020, the FAA notified IATA Level 2 airports, including Chicago O'Hare International Airport, that it would prioritize flights cancelled due to COVID-19 through May 31, 2020, when establishing a carrier's operational baseline for the next equivalent season. On April 9, 2020, the FAA formally amended the notice, and granted a full waiver for the Summer 2020 scheduling season ending on October 24, 2020.

On October 7, 2020, the FAA issued a notice extending a waiver for Level 2 airports through the entire Winter 2020/2021 season ending on March 27, 2021. With this action, FAA is extending its COVID-19-related policy for prioritizing flights cancelled at designated IATA Level 2 airports in the United States, for purposes of establishing a carrier's operational baseline for the next equivalent season. The CDA is taking a similar approach and is hereby applying the following conditions:

 All schedules submitted and assigned by the Scheduling Manager for the Winter 2020/2021 season and not intended to be operated must be returned at least four weeks prior to the date of the intended operation to allow other carriers an opportunity to operate at these times on an ad hoc basis without historic precedence. Air Carriers must comply with this condition for operations scheduled from November 12, 2020, through March 27, 2021, and therefore should begin notifying the Scheduling Manager of allocated schedule returns or changes to the Initial Schedule Submission on October 15, 2020.

 The Scheduling Manager will not prioritize the newly assigned flights for initial use during the Winter 2020/2021 season. However, newly assigned flights would remain eligible for priority considerations in Winter 2021/2022 season if actually operated in Winter 2020/2021.

In addition to the considerations above, the priorities, procedures and requirements outlined in the TSUPs shall remain applicable. Additionally, none of the provisions contained in this letter shall be considered to supersede the provisions outlined in the 2018 Airline Use and Lease Agreement (AULA).

The CDA understands the incredible difficulties created by the rapid and severe deterioration of passenger demand created by COVID-19. We agree that air carriers require relief in scheduling requirements, but only to the extent that these measures are temporary and targeted, matched to the parameters of the crisis, and based on evidence related to the nature of each market. To that effect, the CDA reserves the right to adjust the end date for these COVID-19 exemptions beyond March 27, 2021.

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Rhee Commissioner