A RESOLUTION

04-R-0913

BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SUPPORTING A REQUEST TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AIRPORT SECURITY SCREENERS AT HARTSFIELD-JACKSON ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (the "Airport") is the busiest passenger airport in the world; and

WHEREAS, passenger traffic is exceeding pre-September 11, 2001 levels and trending toward a record breaking year for 2004; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has abandoned its previously established national goal that passenger wait times to clear airport security screening checkpoints should not exceed 10 minutes; and

WHEREAS, on 74 out of 79 days between February 1 and April 19, 2004, maximum passenger wait times at the Airport's Main security screening checkpoint exceeded 10 minutes; and

WHEREAS, on the mornings of February 17 and May 10, 2004, passenger lines at the Main security screening checkpoint extended one-half mile through the terminal building and out along the Terminal South roadway curb (shown on Exhibit A) as passenger wait times exceeded one hour and twenty minutes; and

WHEREAS, a TSA screening staff shortfall at Hartsfield-Jackson is the primary reason for the lengthy delays local passengers frequently experience when flying out of the Airport; and

WHEREAS, TSA does not have adequate funding to pay overtime to screeners, which would provide the local Federal Security Director (FSD) additional flexibility in staffing Hartsfield-Jackson's checkpoints during peak passenger periods; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Aviation (DOA) is in the process of demolishing two newsstand concessions (with a corresponding loss of revenue) and expanding the Main security screening checkpoint to add four additional screening lanes; and

WHEREAS, the DOA is preparing a design to add four additional screening lanes at the International Concourse E checkpoint, where passenger wait times often exceed 20 minutes, and is also designing a reconfigured and expanded Main checkpoint to add more lanes beyond the four lanes under construction and passenger queuing area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA that the Transportation Security Administration take all necessary action to hire additional screeners and fill all existing staff vacancies expeditiously to facilitate continuous operation of the existing 18 Main security

screening checkpoint lanes during peak passenger periods without lane closures for staff breaks and meals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transportation Security Administration take all necessary action to hire additional screeners to provide adequate resources to staff the four new lanes currently being constructed at the Main checkpoint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transportation Security Administration take all necessary action to provide staff to operate the three existing Mezzanine security screening checkpoint lanes during peak passenger periods; most notably on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 6:00 a.m. until passenger queues subside to within the stanchion queue area in front of the Main checkpoint, and Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. or until passenger queues subside to within the stanchion queue area of the Main checkpoint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transportation Security Administration take all necessary action to provide staff at the earliest opportunity to operate the four additional lanes being added at the International Concourse E security screening checkpoint and reconfigured and expanded Main checkpoint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Transportation Security Administration provide the local Federal Security Director with an adequate overtime budget (at least 5%) to provide flexibility in scheduling staff to reduce passenger wait times during peak passenger periods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transportation Security Administration take all necessary action to reinstate the ten-minute wait standard established by the administration in order to fulfill its public responsibility to supply to the travelers at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport quality service at all Airport security checkpoints (Exhibit B, Resolution 03-R-0831).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Atlanta Municipal Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the Transportation Security Administration, the local Federal Security Director, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and the Georgia Congressional Delegation.

EXHIBIT A

Pictures of Monday, May 10, 2004, Checkpoint Lines

A RESOLUTION

BY H. L. Hill

CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

EXHIBIT B

03-R-0831

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING AND REQUESTING THE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO FULFILL ITS PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPLY TO THE TRAVELERS AT HARTSFIELD ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT QUALITY SECURITY SERVICES AT ALL OF ITS SECURITY CHECKPOINTS.

WHEREAS, Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport (the Airport) is the busiest Airport in the world; and

WHEREAS, passenger traffic is returning to the pre-September 11, 2001 level; and

WHEREAS, passenger traffic at the Airport for the first quarter of 2003 is trending four percent (4%) above the first quarter of 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has established a standard of world-class security and world-class customer service and established that wait times should not exceed ten minutes at its security checkpoints; and

WHEREAS, on many occasions over the last few months the TSA ten (10) minute wait standard has been exceeded at the Airport; and

WHEREAS, Monday morning May 19, 2003 passenger wait times exceeded fifty-five (55) minutes at the Airport, and these long lines, waits and delays have a disruptive effect on the air transportation system of the United States and subject the citizens of Atlanta to an intolerable "hassle factor"; and

WHEREAS, this "hassle factor" will discourage people from flying and thereby damage an already unprofitable airline industry; and

WHEREAS, the airline industry is critically important and vital to the economy of the Atlanta region, the state of Georgia and the southeastern part of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA that the Federal Transportation Security Administration take all necessary action to meet the ten (10) minute wait standard established by the administration in order to fulfill its public responsibility to supply to the travelers at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport quality security service at all its security checkpoints.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Atlanta Municipal Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the Transportation Security Administration (Admiral James Loy), the Federal Security Director (Willie Williams), the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (Tom Ridge), and the Atlanta Congressional Delegation.

A true copy,
Rhonda Dauphin Johnson
Municipal Clerk, CMC

ADOPTED by the Council MAY 19, 2003
APPROVED by the Mayor MAY 27, 2003