



Lexington-Fayette
Urban County Government

JIM GRAY
VICE MAYOR

December 1, 2008

Dear Mayor,

I am writing in connection with the issues associated with Bluegrass Airport that were introduced in the Sunday, November 23rd edition of the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. As you know, the issues were discussed in a Council Committee of the Whole meeting last Tuesday; at that time, several members of the council expressed concerns, including a view that the issues merit the City's attention. You and I had a brief chance to discuss the issue following the work session last Tuesday. At that time, you asked if I had seen the Airport's last financial audit, which I haven't. I look forward to reviewing it; however, I doubt the issues revealed by the media reports will have been addressed by the Airport's annual financial audit.

I believe the State Auditor is best equipped to perform the type of independent review needed to assure public confidence in the airport operation. Therefore, I intend to propose a resolution at Tuesday's Council meeting requesting such an audit of the airport's operations.

It is appropriate and important that we acknowledge the worthy public service of our airport board members, as well as the airport's management and employees. An independent audit serves to reinforce the confidence our public deserves in all our public institutions, especially those like the airport, which affect public safety and commerce.

While issues like this can be troublesome and are never welcomed, I am sure you share my view that we should work together to restore confidence and bring transparency to any issues that require it.

Cordially,

Mayor Jim Newberry
200 East Main St.
Lexington, KY 40507

Cc: Councilmembers

Hand Delivered by
Maureen 12-1, 4:45pm -
VM Gray is happy to
talk to you further about
this...



File copy

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Lexington, Kentucky

Jim Newberry
Mayor

December 4, 2008

Vice-Mayor Jim Gray
Council Office
200 East Main Street – 5th Floor
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Jim,

Thanks for your letter of December 1. I do not consider dealing with the airport issue to be particularly painful or troublesome – just merely part of the routine problems typically encountered and which must be addressed when running an operation of the size of LFUCG.

As you know, I believe the better course of action would have been to allow the airport board to address the issues first. I strongly believe the airport should be managed free of the political influences and motivations that are an inevitable aspect of involvement by either councilmembers or the mayor. That is precisely why an independent board has the statutory duty of running the airport, rather than LFUCG having that responsibility.

Until such time as the board proves that it is unable to effectively manage the airport, the board should be permitted to do its job without the interference of others. I have great confidence in the ability of the highly regarded board members to manage the airport effectively, and to the degree changes should be made, I am confident the board will take appropriate action.

That said, I welcome any objective external review by individuals or agencies competent to evaluate the issues raised in the news stories, and I expect most, if not all, of the board members will share that perspective.

Cordially,

cc: Councilmembers
Airport Board Members