

Theodore LIPSCOMB

Milwaukee County Board Chairman
County Supervisor, 1st District

January 6, 2016

Hon. Chris Abele
Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 306
901 N. 9th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear County Executive Abele,

Your appointment of Mr. Ismael "Izzy" Bonilla as Airport Director raises some questions that require a public response from you, particularly in light of Mr. Bonilla's background as the Chief Operating Officer of the first privatized medium hub in the United States with Aerostar Airport Holdings, LLC, a fact curiously omitted from the announcement of this appointment.

I formally invite you to appear before the legislative branch in a public setting to answer a number of questions about your vision and Mr. Bonilla's vision for the future delivery of transportation services in Milwaukee County. For example, the issue of airport governance, private versus public, was raised with this specific appointment.

You recently convinced Madison lawmakers to adopt legislation handing you power to sell public land without legislative oversight. One legal interpretation of the law is that this new power could extend to your authority as County Executive to sell or lease our publicly governed airports, General Mitchell International and Timmerman, without any local legislative oversight.

The confluence of your selection of a prior private operator at this time, after close to a year without an Airport Director, and the passage of state legislation greatly expanding your powers, raises fundamental questions about your administration's vision for the future delivery of transportation services.

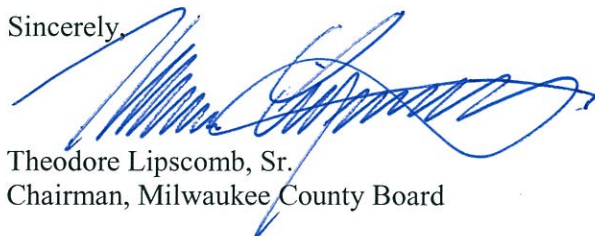
Questions include but are not limited to:

- * Do you intend to pursue the sale or lease of General Mitchell International or Timmerman airports?
- * Will you seek to privatize the operations of GMIA or Timmerman?
- * Do you plan to turn governance of our public airports over to a non-elected (corporate) body?

I have asked the Chairman of the Board's Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit to schedule a public hearing on this topic, and we invite you and Mr. Bonilla to share your respective visions for our airports with Milwaukee County residents after his February 1 start date. If airport privatization is the direction where you and Mr. Bonilla are headed, this information should not be hidden from the public.

I look forward to your prompt response to this invitation, and I hope you do not refuse to discuss these important issues in a public forum with the legislative branch.

Sincerely,



Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
Chairman, Milwaukee County Board

cc: County Board of Supervisors

