

Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Office of the County Attorney 601 SE 25th Ave. Ocala, FL 34471

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<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

To:

Chuck Varadin, Growth Services Director

From:

Matthew G. Minter, County Attorney

Date:

December 12, 2024

Subj:

Application (AR#32136) to construct 22 new hangars at Jumbolair-Greystone

Montead Neuter

Airport FAA ID 17FL

INTRODUCTION: The Jumbolair-Greystone Airport (hereafter, "Airport") is "registered" by, and has "site approval" by the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") as a "Private Airport," with a site address of 8851 West Anthony Road, Ocala, FL 34479. (See attachment A). The registration of the Airport by FDOT in 1980 and 1982 pre-dates the enactment of land development regulations applicable to the site by Marion County. The Airport is one of 224 private airports in the State of Florida listed in the FDOT 2024 Florida Airport Directory. (See attachment B). It is noted that there are a number of other FDOT registered private airports in Marion County also listed in that Directory. While legal issues may arise in numerous contexts related to airports, this memorandum addresses the narrow issue of what permits or approvals are required from Marion County for the construction of 22 new airplane hangars within the approved Airport site boundary. There was a comprehensive plan amendment and concurrent PUD rezoning application related to property adjacent to the airport that was withdrawn on February 20, 2024. And, in the future, there may be separate proposals related to new development in or around the airport, but those issues are not germane to, and thus not addressed in this memorandum.

RELEVANT HISTORICAL ACTIVITY: An application for construction of five replacement hangars, to replace existing hangars, was submitted to the County in 2021 under Major Site Plan Application (AR # 27450). That Plan was approved by the DRC on December 13, 2021. Permits for four of the five hangars were issued on February 2, 2022, and the fifth hangar permit was issued on February 16, 2022. The Major Site Plan was revised (AR# 29680) to reflect some adjustments made as the site was under construction. That Plan was approved by the DRC on April 3, 2023. The permits for the five hangars were then CO'd on April 11, 2023. No other permits or approvals were required by Marion County for that project.

JURISDICTION: Initial issues involve the questions, "What is an airport?" "What agency has jurisdiction to initially approve a private airport?" "Is the construction of new hangars within an approved airport boundary authorized by the approval of the airport itself?" If the Florida Department of

Transportation ("FDOT") has authority to approve new airports, does Marion County have any regulatory authority over construction of new buildings on airport property?

Florida statutes provide for approvals of new public airports and private and personal airports. The Airport has for some time held a current valid registration and site approval for a private airport by the FDOT. A private airport can be used by the owners of the airport, and the invitees of those owners. A private airport is not open to use by the general public, as is the case for the Ocala Airport or the Marion County Airport. Private airport site approvals and registrations are administered by FDOT pursuant to Ch. 330, Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Ch. 14-60. Fla. Stat. § 330.30(1)(a)2. provides that "the proposed airport will conform to licensing and registration requirements and will comply with applicable local government land development regulations or zoning requirements. As stated above, the registration of the Airport pre-dates the adoption of the Marion County Land Development Code.

The question whether Marion County has any authority to limit the number of hangars at the Airport requires a review of the definition of an "airport."

Definitions of "Airport"

A. U.S. Code

- Per 49 USC § 47102(2), an airport is:
- a. An area of land or water used or intended to be used for the landing and taking off of aircraft;
- b. An appurtenant area used or intended to be used for airport buildings and other airport facilities or rights of way;
- - c Airport buildings and facilities located in any of those areas;
- Per 49 USC § 102(2)(B), this specifically includes heliports.

B. Florida Statutes

Fla. Stat. Ch. 330 REGULATION OF AIRCRAFT, PILOTS, AND AIRPORTS

Fla. Stat. §330.27

(2) "Airport" means an area of land or water used for, or intended to be used for, landing and takeoff of aircraft, including appurtenant areas, buildings, facilities, or rights -of-way necessary to facilitate such use or intended use.

[Note, the federal and Florida definitions of "airport" above appear to be "industry standard," – for instance, the definition of "airport" in Oregon Admin. Code, Rule 738-005-0010 (18) contains substantially the same definition.

(5) "Private airport" means an airport, publicly or privately owned, which is not open or available for use by the public, but may be made available to others by invitation of the owner or manager.

Fla. Stat. Ch. 332 AIRPORTS AND OTHER AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES

Fla. Stat. § 332.01. Airport law; definitions

(3) "Airport" means any area, of land or water, except a restricted landing area, which is designed for the landing and takeoff of aircraft; whether or not facilities are provided for the shelter, servicing, or repair of aircraft, or for receiving and discharging of passengers or cargo, and all appurtenant areas used or suitable, for access to airport facilities, airport buildings, or other airport facilities, and all appurtenant rights-of-way, whether heretofore or hereafter established.

The definitions of "airport" in both the federal and Florida statutes above are broad enough to include hangars, although not expressly using the word "hangar." A hangar is a building or facility for the shelter, servicing or repair of aircraft.

Other Authorities

- In Gordon v. Bd. Of Civil Authority for Town of Morristown, 910 A.2d 836, 839 (Vt. 2006), in a tax case, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that a "hangar," as a structure designed to enclose an area for sheltering airplanes, is a "building."
- In the definitions of the **Oregon Admin. Code** referenced above, **Rule 738-005-0010 (67)** "hangar" or "hangar structure" is defined as a covered, usually enclosed, area for housing and repairing aircraft."
- In another tax case, the Supreme Court of Illinois, in *Harrisburg-Raleigh Airport Authority v. The Dep't of Revenue*, 533 N.E.2d 1072, 1074-75 (1989), referring to an applicable Illinois statute, the court noted that the Act defines an "Airport" as "any locality . . . used or designed for the landing and taking off of aircraft, or for the location of . . .hangars, buildings structures, . . . and other facilities." The court also observed that "[w]ithout some provision for storage of private aircraft, private aircraft owners would be forced to construct their own storage facilities at a distance from the airport, or use public storage facilities which might not be available on short notice. The goal of assuring regular users of the airport that they will be able to store their craft in secure facilities bears a real and substantial relation to a public airport's function of serving as a terminus for private aircraft." Although that statement relates to hangars at public airports, the description of a hangar's function demonstrates that a hangar is a normal appurtenant building or facility for both private and public airports.

In consideration of the foregoing, I conclude that the Site Approval and Registration by FDOT of the Airport includes the right of the Airport owner to construct hangars within the Airport site. No other zoning or land use approvals from the County are necessary for the construction of these hangars. The Airport Registration does not exempt airport development from all County regulations, including those related to the building code; fire code, stormwater regulations, set-backs and building height restrictions. Therefore, I conclude that the application for site plan approval and building permits will go through the DRC review in the same manner as the five replacement hangars referenced above, in 2023.

I am providing this memorandum in support of a revision of your August 12, 2024 letter to Attorney Robert W. Batsel, Jr., related to the proposal for the 22 new hangars.

Please let me know if you need additional guidance in this regard.

MGM/lz

Attachments A and B

Complimentary Copy AIRPORT DIRECTORY 2023 GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT OF THE YEAR **Lakeland Linder** International **Airport**



Published by: The Florida Department of Transportation Aviation Office riummingbirds Landing Airport FL46 27-07.258N, 81-48.162W 094, 3,153x100, Unpaved Kevin E Daughtrey 116 Oak Ridge Dr Arcadla, FL 34266 833-444-0556

Hutson Airfield 8FL0 29-43,700N, 81-26,328W 16/36, 2,210x50, Unpaved 09/27, 2,336x50, Unpaved Garrett Gleim PO Box 12848 Gainesville, FL 32604 352-870-0661

Indian Harwnock Airport FL75 27-32.519N, 80-49,987W 11/29, 3,160x100, Unpaved Robert Baum 32801 US Hwy 441 N, 8400 Oksechobes, FL 34972 883-763-9401

Indian River Aerodrome FL74 27-35.918N, 80-30.120W 17/35, 2,600x150, Unpaved Dave J Von Linsowe 180 Sopwith Dr Vero Beach, FL 32968 772-563-3671

Ingalis Field Airport FL12 30-35.428N, 84-01.827W 12/30, 5.550x100, Unpeved Kent Yown 11418 Cherokee Plantation Ct Tallshassee, FL 32312 850-445-0031

J R's Stelport 66FD 29-00.217N, 82-33.317W 09/27, 1,315x80, Unpeved John Rizzo Jr PO Box 3262 Durnellon, FL 34430-3262 352-257-7746

J-22 Ranch Airport 19FL 30-42.511N, 87-12.082W 18/38, 2.595x227, Unpaved Brian Willis 7996 Skyhawk Rd Pace, FL 32571 850-291-2827

Jefferson Landings Airport 74FL 30-35.211N, 83-42.361W 1836, 6,395x75, Unpaved Melvin E Anderman 113 E 2nd Ct Greenville, FL 32331 850-997-0473 Jim Finlay Farm Airport 28FL 29-26.474N, 81-35.066W 18736, 2,233x80, Unpaved Frits Abbing PO Box 774 Crescent City, FL 32112 385-698-3027

Johary Airport FLS8 29-01.582N, 81-59.272W 18738, 3,858x150, Unpewed C F Jehary Sr 1321 Apopka Airport Rd, Unit A Apopka, FL 32712 321-948-3388

Joy Farms Airport 6FD9 30-39.128N, 86-06.563W 04/22, 1,875x60, Unpaved Brien D Goff 4979 S Hwy 331 Defunjek Springs, FL 32435 850-892-2659

Jumbolair-Greystone Airport 17FL 29-16.818N, 82-07.489W 18/36, 7.550x200, Pavad 09/27, 3,000x100, Unpaved Rebert A Buti po box 510310 Melbourne Beach, FL 32951 321-339-8902

Klever Airport 8FL2 29-00,066N, 82-06,039W 18/36, 2,500x100, Unpaved Rebert Klever 15010 SE 28th Ct Summerfield, FL 34491 908-334-3222

Kings Field 21FL 28-30.517N, 81-46.017W 16/33, 1,828x/200, Unpaved 08/26, 2,305x/200, Unpaved Jack King 11320 Monte Vista Rd Clemont, FL 34711 407-467-9999

Kings Port Alchark FD72 27-10.970N, 81-23.438W 18/38, 2,800x70, Unpaved Edward Fleagle 212 Park Land Dr Lake Plackd, FL 33652-5195 910.158.0195

KUrkland Airport FD28 30-58.911N, 85-29.546W 18/35, 1,890x50, Unpaved W R Kirkland 5673 Hwy 77 Graceville, FL 32440 850-263-3622 Kitty Hawk Estates Airport FL98 30-20.339N, 83-08.623W 11/29, 5,000x150, Unpaved Keily Caudili 8277 185th Rd Live Calk, FL 32060 386-688-2900

Lafayatta Landings Airport FD80 29-10.116N, 81-15.887W 15/33, 3,100x200, Unpaved Todd Whatey 3150 Lafayetta Landings Dr De Leon Springs, FL 32130 388-801-5855

Lake City Airpark FL27 30-02,631N, 62-36.23SW 05/23, 3,215x150, Unpaved Dan Dannecker 355 SW Aviation Dr Lake CRy, FL 32025 772-465-2528

Lake Clinch Alrpark \$ZFL 27-45,018N, 81-33,671W 18/36, 2,840x100, Unpaved Beb Komre 330 Alrport Road 330 Frostproof, FL 33843 715-495-2003

Lake Montaxa Airport 83FD 27-34.817N, 80-48.917W 90/24, 2,000x100, Unpeved Andrew Kruss 2843 S Bayshore Dr, 68 Mizmi, FL 33133 305-496-2950

Lake Persimmon Airstrip 93FA 27-21.166N, 81-24.486W 99/27, 2,000×100, Unpaved David 8 Piper 128 Pine Tree Dr Lake Piecki, FL 33852 630-802-4405

Lake Suzy Estates Airport 28FL 27-02.553N, 82-02.622W 12/30, 3,600x200, Unpawed Gerald Downs 11970 SW Kingsway Cir Lake Suzy, FL 34259 941-628-7568

Lake X Airport 57FA 28-12.518N, 81-07.154W 17:35, 5,200x60, Pavad Rich Adair 7965 Old Melbourne Hwy Saint Cloud, FL 34771 407-709-1745