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Airport Authority Announces Investigation

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) announced today that it has launched a wide-ranging investigation of prime contractors and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contractors in the Authority's construction projects and concession program. The Authority began this investigation after it learned of apparent irregularities in the utilization of a DBE subcontractor on a project at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The Authority has already turned over the results of its preliminary investigation to federal authorities who are conducting their own investigation. The Authority will continue to cooperate in that federal investigation.

"Safeguarding the integrity of WCAA's federally-mandated DBE program is a matter we take very seriously," said Lester Robinson, the Authority's Chief Executive Officer. "We launched this independent investigation to identify and rectify the irregularities and their causes."

None of the apparent irregularities discovered relate to airport safety or security.

The investigation is part of the Airport Authority's overall effort to determine that airport practices are in compliance with WCAA policies and procedures, including the business practices of contractors and vendors.

The Authority reaffirms its belief that the overwhelming majority of its contractors, including both DBE and non-DBE contractors, conduct their businesses the right way and work hard to be important economic and social partners in their communities. The Authority's role has been and continues to be building capacity for small, minority and women-owned businesses, as well as diligently protecting its DBE program against those who would undermine the important social and economic principles on which it stands. The Authority has a demonstrated track record of success in its DBE program built on longstanding public and private partnerships, and we are confident that success will continue in the future.

The Authority's investigation is led by the Chicago offices of Perkins Coie and Mayer Brown LLP, in association with the Authority's outside counsel, Bodman LLP.

On the advice of attorneys, the Airport Authority will release no further statements on this matter until the investigation is completed.

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