



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 24-156**

**Date:** November 4, 2024

**To:** Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

**From:** Susan Grant, Acting City Manager *Susan Grant*

**Re:** **Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport Unleaded Aviation Fuel Quarterly Update #1**

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At the July 2, 2024 Commission Meeting, the City Commission approved Resolution No. 24-128, directing the City Manager to implement a program to encourage the sale of unleaded aviation fuel at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE), reduce lead emissions at FXE, offer incentives to encourage the transition to aviation unleaded fuel, and apply for grants from the State of Florida or the Federal government to assist with the implementation of this program. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) along with other industry and government stakeholders supports the Eliminate Aviation Gasoline Lead Emissions (EAGLE) initiative goal of a lead-free future for piston engine aircraft by 2030. EAGLE aims to eliminate the use of leaded aviation gas (AVGAS) without compromising the safe and efficient operation of the existing general aviation fleet. At the meeting, City staff committed to providing the City Commission with quarterly updates.

### Soil Sampling

Earlier this year the City contracted with GHD Services, Inc (GHD) to screen soil at specific on-airport locations for the potential presence of lead contamination from aircraft fuel emissions. The final report indicated the range of lead concentration measured does not have a lead concentration quantifiable above the specific detection limit. At the request of the City Commission, the City has contracted with GHD to perform soil screening and air quality testing in several neighborhoods surrounding the Airport. The locations have been defined, a task order with GHD was issued, and GHD is currently working on an access agreement to allow entry into the private property for the soil testing. City staff are working to identify alternative sample locations that are within the public right of way in the case that private property owners don't consent to the access agreement terms and conditions.

### Airport Survey

The City of Fort Lauderdale is working to encourage the sale of unleaded aviation fuel and has conducted a survey of the aviation fuel providers and aircraft owners who operate at FXE. Responses from the aviation fuel providers confirmed that they are not

prepared to make the investment with separate fuel storage tanks and fuel trucks since the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has not performed an evaluation of all unleaded aviation fuel on the market. ASTM is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of voluntary consensus standards. Although some aircraft operators are willing to make the transition to unleaded aviation fuel, the survey results identified concerns pertaining to cost effectiveness, engine performance, and availability of unleaded aviation fuel at their preferred destinations. City staff will continue outreach to businesses by phone and visit their offices as needed to encourage participation.

#### Grant Funding Research

City staff reached out to the Florida Department of Transportation aviation branch to seek grant funding opportunities for promoting and implementing programs to transition from 100 low lead fuel to unleaded aviation fuel. At this moment, aviation grant initiatives have been allocated for Airport infrastructure projects that ensure the safe and secure operation of all state airports.

The next quarterly update is scheduled for February 2025. For additional information please contact Rufus James, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport Director at [RJJames@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:RJJames@fortlauderdale.gov).

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