



Public hearing for Friday's airport board meeting to be postponed

Regular business portion of monthly meeting will still be held

INDIANAPOLIS—The Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) has postponed a public hearing on collective bargaining scheduled for its Friday, March 11 board meeting. The hearing will be rescheduled for a future date to be determined.

The business portion of Friday's meeting, however, will take place as scheduled at the Radisson Indianapolis, located at 2500 South High School Road in Indianapolis. The meeting will be held in the Winner's Circle Ballroom, the hotel's main conference room.

The hotel venue had been engaged before the decision was made to postpone the hearing. According to airport leaders, a number of factors led them to reconsider conducting a hearing this week.

Over the past two years, a number of discussions between IAA management, airport employees, and collective bargaining representatives have taken place. The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 399 represents about 75 airport employees and has been working toward a definitive collective bargaining agreement with IAA.

"The management team was presented with a decertification petition containing several dozen signatures by employees three weeks ago. The petition, which is signed by a majority of the airport authority's operations and maintenance employees, requests that their existing negotiating relationship with the IUOE be dissolved," reported John D. Clark III, IAA's executive director and CEO.

Clark said management needs more time to review the employee petition and fully consider the request. In addition, airport officials have been approached by IUOE representatives who would like an opportunity for more dialog with the authority's Human Resource Committee before discussions reach the public hearing stage.

"Given current events in Wisconsin and at the statehouse here in Indiana, we want to preserve the integrity of the hearing's intent, which is for local citizens, employees, and union representatives who live and work in the greater Indianapolis area to have a fair opportunity to share their views," added Michael Stayton, IAA's board president.

In the aggregate, Clark and Stayton believe these developments warrant further consideration before a public hearing is held.

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