

Opposing The Name Change Of Stewart International Airport

The Economic Development, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Rodriguez and Legislators Berardi, Gregorius, Loughran, Sheeley, Alfonso and Roberti) and Legislators Aiello, Busick, Cummings, Every, Fabiano, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, McAfee and Noonan offer the following:

WHEREAS, in 1930, Samuel L. Stewart donated 200 acres of his farmland to the City of Newburgh for use as a municipal airport. The airport was named in honor of Samuel's father, Lachlan Stewart, a Scottish-born sea captain, who skippered schooners, packets and other sailing vessels during the mid 1850's, and

WHEREAS, in 2000, National Express Corporation, won a 99 year lease to operate the airport, and as part of its marketing strategy, has determined that a name change of the airport from "Stewart International Airport" to "New York-Hudson Valley International Airport" would help lure business to the airport and identify its location in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Stewart airport lands have long been an integral part of our national and military history. In 1942, West Point began operating a basic flying instruction program for its cadets who fought for our country during World War II. Stewart Air Force Base is now home to the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing, the Marine Air Refueler and Transport Squadron, and

WHEREAS, in 1970, the military leased Stewart back to civilian control. Presently, the Stewart International Airport is the nation's second largest airport in total area, and

WHEREAS, Orange County takes great pride in preserving its history, its long ties to the military and to those individuals who have greatly contributed to our society and it is only fitting and proper that the name of this airport remain "Stewart International Airport" or in the event National Express Company deems a name change is appropriate to lure new business to the airport then, such a name change should include the word "Stewart".

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby opposes a change to the name of Stewart International Airport but in the event National Express Company deems a name change is appropriate to lure new business to the airport, then such name should include the word "Stewart", and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J.

Resolution No. 143 April 11, 2006

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Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, the New York State Association of Counties, National Express Corporation, the Stewart Airport Commission and the Orange County Legislature,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 28 NOES: 3
(NOES: Legislators Bischoff, Dart and Lomita)
(Absent: Legislators Aiello and Sheeley)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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