



City Council Report

Date: July 8, 2025
To: City Council
Through: Scott Butler, City Manager,
From: Jim Smith, City Attorney
Charlotte McDermott, Assistant City Attorney
Subject: Update to Mesa Gateway Airport Joint Powers Airport Authority
Agreement and Intergovernmental Agreement
Council District 6

Purpose and Recommendation

This resolution would update the Joint Powers Airport Authority Agreement (JPAA) and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) documents between the City of Mesa and Mesa-Gateway Airport to reflect the City of Phoenix electing to withdraw from the airport authority.

Staff recommends adopting the resolution to memorialize the City of Phoenix withdrawing from the airport authority and renaming the airport “Mesa Gateway Airport” in agreement document between the JPAA and the City of Mesa

Background

Williams Air Force Base was established as Williams Field in 1941 as one of the US Army Air Force’s premier pilot training facilities. The base continued its training mission for United States Air Force and allied pilots through the Cold War era as William Air Force Base, training over 26,500 pilots. Due to the changing US defense priorities in the 1980s and 1990s, Williams Air Force Base was selected for closure by the 1991 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The base officially closed on September 30, 1993.

The airfield and associated facilities were made available by the United States Air Force to local governments for civilian airport use, which led to the formation of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority (WGAA) and Williams-Gateway Airport through an intergovernmental agreement designed to manage and redevelop the base as a civilian airport.

Mesa City Council resolved to enter into the initial Joint Powers Airport Authority Agreement (JPAA) for the William Gateway Airport Authority dated May 19, 1994.

In June of 1995, Mesa City Council resolved to enter an Intergovernmental Agreement with among the members of JPAA including: William Gateway Airport Authority, Town of Gilbert, the City of Mesa, the Town of Queen Creek, and the Gila River Indian Community

In May of 2006 the Mesa City Council resolved to amend the JPAA to add the City of Phoenix to the Williams Gateway Airport Authority with the understanding that the addition of the City of Phoenix could strengthen the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, Sky Harbor International Airport, and the regional aviation system in Central Arizona. Shortly after this JPAA amendment the name of the airport was changed to *Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport*.

Mesa City Council resolved to amend the JPAA in July 2013 to add the City of Apache Junction as a member of the airport authority.

The City of Phoenix withdrew from the airport authority effective July 1, 2024.

The airport name was changed from *Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport* to *Mesa Gateway Airport* effective December 17, 2024

Discussion

Adopting this resolution would acknowledge the withdrawal of the City of Phoenix from the JPAA and IGA. It would also recognize the renaming of the airport to the *Mesa-Gateway Airport* placing the City of Mesa in a more prominent position in the identification of this major aviation asset.

Alternatives

Council may chose not to adopt this resolution, this would result in not amending the JPAA and IGA for *Mesa-Gateway Airport*

Fiscal Impact

There will be no additional fiscal impact with the adoption of this resolution, Mesa's annual contributions remain the same.

Coordinated With

In addition to the City of Mesa this recommendation was coordinated with the Mesa Gateway Airport Authority, the Town of Gilbert, the Town of Queen Creek, the Gila River Indian Community, and the City of Apache Junction. These parties are effectively known as the members of the Mesa Gateway Airport Authority