

COVID-19: Survival and Revival

Call-in Forum for Airport Concessions Industry – No. 36

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About this Session: *This week we'll hear from three airport CEOs who run some of the largest airports and airport systems in the world. Looking back at the events of 2020, they'll provide an assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 on their airports and the global aviation system. With rollout of vaccines, limited short-term relief from Congress, ongoing traffic decline/revenue losses, and uncertain return of business and international travelers, they will discuss how to sustain airport operations and work with airport concessionaires towards recovery and a post-pandemic airport industry.*

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HUNTLEY A. LAWRENCE, *Acting COO/Director of Aviation*

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Huntley A. Lawrence, a 35-year veteran of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is the Acting COO/Director of Aviation. Mr. Lawrence is responsible for managing one of the world's largest airport systems with revenues of \$2.9 billion and a staff of over 1,500 aviation professionals. Mr. Lawrence began his career at the Port Authority in 1985 in airport operations holding positions of increasing responsibility at LaGuardia, Newark Liberty International (EWR) and JFK International airports. His roles included properties and commercial development, operations, customer and airport services, security, technology, capital improvements and a series of senior leadership positions most recently as director of aviation since 2017.



JUSTIN ERBACCI, *Chief Executive Officer*, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

Justin Erbacci was appointed as CEO by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti in June 2020 after serving as Acting CEO since 2016. Mr. Erbacci has oversight of LAX and Van Nuys (VNY) general aviation airports. He leads the team responsible for transforming LAX into a world-class airport for the modern traveler and thus returning LAX to its iconic status. His responsibilities involve managing more than \$14 billion in programs to revolutionize how guests access the airport, to modernize all of LAX's terminals and to significantly improve operations, retail, food and beverage and the overall guest experience. He also oversees programs to bring innovation and sustainability to VNY, one of the nation's busiest general aviation airports. Mr. Erbacci oversees the largest airport police force in the United States and works with his public safety team and outside government stakeholders to ensure the protection of the public and property.



LESTER SOLA, *Director and Chief Executive Officer*, Miami-Dade Aviation Department

Lester Sola oversees operations at MIA and four general aviation airports, which generated \$31.9b in business revenue and supported more than 275,000 direct/indirect jobs in 2019. Also responsible for: the reorganization of several County departments; coordination/refocusing of the capital program at MIA; the establishment of small/minority-based programs for the procurement of goods/services; establishment of centralized systems for the tracking of County capital expansion programs and professional services; and management direction to County departments, management agreements and agencies such as Aviation, Seaport, Beacon Council, Performing Arts Center and the American Airlines Arena.