City of Santa Barbara
Airport Department

DATE: November 21, 2017
TO: Airport Commission
FROM: Hazel Johns, Airport Director
SUBJECT: Lease Amendment – Mercury Air Center Inc. dba Atlantic Aviation

RECOMMENDATION:

That Commission recommends to City Council that the Airport Director execute an Amendment of amended Lease Agreement No. 21,267.3 with Mercury Air Center Inc. dba Atlantic Aviation (Atlantic), a California Corporation, to extend the lease term by two years to May 31, 2020. The tenant occupies a total of 436,314 square feet of space, comprised of 21,089 square feet of building space in three (3) buildings, including one large hangar and 19 portable T-hangars. The current annual rental fee will increase from $279,000 to $348,750 (on a monthly basis $23,250 vs. $29,063) which represents a 25% increase over current rent to the Airport. At the commencement of year two of the Amendment, the rental fee will increase an additional five (5) percent.

DISCUSSION:

The subject Premises is in an Airport Facilities (AF) zone. Due to the unique circumstances of Atlantic’s location on the south-east corner of the Airport, the Amendment also includes provisions for the right to recover portions of the Premises, should this become necessary as part of the Master Plan redevelopment (see below). Rent will be adjusted proportionally in accordance with revised square footage.

As a key part of the Airport’s future Master Plan, the current fixed base operator (FBO) locations will be redeveloped. The north-east corner of the airfield will be reconfigured to accommodate two future FBOs north of the main runway. By relocating all FBO operations north of the runway, the Airport gains access to valuable land area suitable for expansion of the Airline Terminal parking lot, which is needed as passenger volumes increase. Expansion of parking adjacent to the Airline Terminal may eliminate the future need for costly and inconvenient passenger shuttling from the remote parking lot north of Hollister Avenue to the Airport.

The redevelopment of the FBO business will take place upon completion of a carefully orchestrated process including the issuance and evaluation of Request for Proposal (RFP) submittals from interested FBO companies. Recently, the Airport selected aviation industry leader Leigh Fisher Associates to assist the Airport in this competitive process. In the meantime, however, the existing Agreements for both Signature and Mercury Air Center Inc. dba Atlantic Aviation are set to expire on May 9, 2018. The Airport must assure a continuation of FBO operations while the process to compete the business opportunities and prepare for redevelopment takes place in 2018-19.
In consideration for the opportunity to continue operations for an additional two years, Atlantic has accepted the Airport's requested 25% increase in rental rates for their Premises. The Federal Aviation Administration has recently modified its required contract language for federally funded airports, and the revised language is included in the Amendment as well.

The proposed Amendment has been negotiated based upon the criteria set forth in Resolution 93-127 and has been determined to be exempt from environmental review.

PREPARED BY:  Business Development/Properties

ATTACHMENT:  Lease Proposal, Map