



City of Santa Barbara

Airport Department

Meeting: 09/25/19
Agenda Item No. 12

DATE: September 25, 2019
TO: Airport Commission
FROM: Henry Thompson, Airport Director
SUBJECT: Airport Security Overview

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Airport Commission receive a report regarding an overview of Airport Security.

DISCUSSION:

The United States is engaged in a fight against terrorists who seek to attack the American people, our country, and our way of life. Airports remain a primary target for terrorist organizations as we continue to face one of the most challenging threat environments since 9/11. An informed, vigilant, and engaged public remains one of our greatest assets to identify potential terrorists and prevent attacks.

Terrorist groups are urging recruits to adopt easy-to-use tools to target public places and events. Recent attack tactics have included the use of vehicle ramming, straight-edged blades or knives, homemade explosives, and poisons or toxins. Violent extremist media encourages individuals worldwide to launch attacks using all means possible.

To counter the threat, airport security is regulated by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which was established by the passage of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of November 19, 2001. TSA provides this oversight through a regulatory framework known as the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), specifically 49 CFR Part 1542, titled Airport Security. They further regulate the Airport's operation through a variety of confidential Security Directives (SDs) and Information Circulars (ICs) that are issued based upon real-time threat data and shape the daily security posture on the Airport Operations Area (AOA).

The Airport Operator is charged with promoting a positive security culture and enforcement of all applicable regulations and policies. Key to this responsibility is ensuring that all employees, commercial tenants, General Aviation (GA) tenants, and other stakeholders maintain a high level of security consciousness. Compliance with Federal security requirements and the Airport Security Program is an essential element of minimizing security risk and exposure.

The publically available information contained within this report is intended to provide an overview of the regulatory process and local efforts aimed at enhancing Airport security.

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