



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration

Office of the Regional Administrator  
Southern Region

P.O. Box 20636  
Atlanta, Georgia 30320-0631



APR 17 2002

The Honorable Rick Baker  
Mayor of St. Petersburg  
175 - 5<sup>th</sup> Street North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Mayor Baker:

At a recent open forum led by the Acting Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), an audience member expressed his concern that the City of St. Petersburg is considering closing Albert Whitted Municipal Airport. This letter is to reiterate the FAA's position on this matter.

The City is contractually bound under the terms of its grant agreements with FAA to maintain Albert Whitted as a public-use airport. This requirement is further detailed in the enclosed letters from FAA's Manager of the Orlando Airports District Office to Chairperson Ruth Varn of the Airport Advisory Committee and from FAA's Associate Administrator for Airports to Richard Mussett, City Development Administrator. Albert Whitted Airport is very important to the regional, state and national system of airports, with 165 based aircraft and a large amount of itinerant activity.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dean Stringer, Manager of the Orlando Airports District Office, tel. (407) 812-6331.

Sincerely,

QUOTED SIGNATURE BY:  
CAROLYN BLUM

Carolyn Blum  
Regional Administrator

Enclosures