



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Media Contact Line: (414) 519-8482

## **MILWAUKEE COUNTY TAKES LEAD IN SUPPORTING HOMETOWN AIRPORT** *New travel policy requires employees traveling on business to always use MKE*

**MILWAUKEE (May 8, 2023)** – Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley has announced a new travel policy for Milwaukee County employees that will help drive additional economic growth in Milwaukee County.

Effective immediately, all Milwaukee County employees who travel by air on County business are required to begin and end their air travel at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport (MKE). The new policy was announced today at a kickoff event with VISIT Milwaukee for National Travel & Tourism Week at MKE.

The Airport is a major driver of tourism in southeast Wisconsin. The more that travelers choose MKE, the easier it is for airlines to add more flights to more places.

“This is a logical change. When County employees travel for work, they must use our community’s airport,” County Executive Crowley said. “If we all choose MKE over a Chicago airport, we could add dozens of new flights, hundreds of new jobs, and millions of dollars to Wisconsin’s economy, rather than sending those dollars to Illinois.”

MKE is the largest and busiest airport in Wisconsin, serving more than 5.5 million passengers in 2022 on an average of 246 flights per day across more than 30 nonstop destinations. The total economic impact of MKE on an annual basis is approximately \$3 billion and supports nearly 26,000 jobs in the greater Milwaukee area.

“Today, I am calling on all businesses and units of government to follow our lead. Help support our hometown airport by requiring all employee travel to flow through MKE,” County Executive Crowley added. “As a result, we will see more economic impact and job growth in Milwaukee County, along with more flight options at Mitchell Airport.”

The policy change has been recorded in Milwaukee County’s Administrative Manual of Operating Procedures and applies to all County-paid employee air travel.

*Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport offers nonstop flights to 30+ destinations coast-to-coast, and more than 200 international destinations are available with one easy connection. MKE is served by Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest, Spirit, Sun Country, and United. The complete list of nonstop cities can be found at [flymke.com](https://flymke.com).*

*MKE, the winner of 2021 and 2022 ASQ Best Airport – North America awards for outstanding customer experience, is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The Airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the Airport’s capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation.*

###