

RESOLUTION

9-1

**WHEREAS**, the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport (Airport) is a significant economic engine for Sangamon County, generating critical primary and spin-off employment, serving as a conduit for local and national trade and providing for a variety of aviation opportunities for its commercial and private customer base, thus allowing Sangamon County residents to connect with all parts of the globe for both business and pleasure travel, and

**WHEREAS**, Frank Vala has provided exceptional leadership as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Springfield Airport Authority (Board), fostering an inclusive approach that has produced a long and consistent track record of the Board working well together under a team-first approach, following a clear sense of goals and objectives for the Airport, and

**WHEREAS**, under Frank Vala's leadership the Airport has become a leader in our community's economic well-being, contributing \$564 million annually to the local economy, the most of any airport in Illinois outside of the Chicago area, and

**WHEREAS**, under Frank Vala's leadership there have been numerous accomplishments for the Airport, highlighted by the following, and

**WHEREAS**, under Frank Vala's leadership the Airport has grown its passenger ridership, expanded service to include Dallas and added a very popular and successful low cost carrier to Florida, and

**WHEREAS**, under Frank Vala's leadership the Airport has undertaken more than \$58 million in infrastructure improvements, including rebuilding a new terminal for general and business aviation, that will open soon, and is in the process of rebuilding and expanding the main commercial passenger terminal building and parking lot, and numerous airfield infrastructure improvements, and

**WHEREAS**, under Frank Vala's leadership the Airport created an innovative program in partnership with Lincoln Land Community College to train students for good paying jobs in our community in the aircraft industry, and facilitated the expansion and modernization of the training facilities in partnership with LRS, and

**WHEREAS**, under Frank Vala's leadership, the financial position of the Airport has improved significantly and has achieved national recognition for its financial policies and procedures, and

**FILED**

AUG 07 2020

*Don H. Hays*  
Sangamon County Clerk

**WHEREAS**, it is acknowledged that operating a successful airport and attracting and keeping air service requires a united community effort, and given the challenges that COVID-19 has presented to the aviation industry and the uncertainties of a post-pandemic world, it is unwise and counterproductive for our community to present a divisive and shortsighted approach to the management of one of its most valuable assets, and


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Sangamon County Board, in session this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020, expresses its support for the leadership shown by the Board of the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, opposes an unnecessary and unexplained change in direction for the Board and Airport and strongly endorses Frank J. Vala for another term as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Springfield Airport Authority.

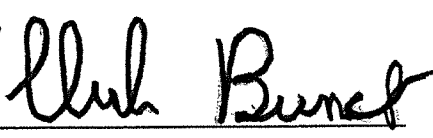
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Chairman, Sangamon County Board

ATTEST:

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County Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

  
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