



**DONOVAN RICHARDS**  
President

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June 10, 2021

Mr. Rick Cotton,  
Executive Director  
Port Authority of NJ & NJ  
225 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10003

**Re: JetBlue Airways Corporation**

Dear Mr. Cotton,

I write on behalf of JetBlue Airways Corporation who announced in a March 16, 2021 CRAIN's New York article that they are considering moving their Long Island City company headquarters to Florida in 2023. The relocation of JetBlue's headquarters to Florida is alarming news for our borough, our economy, and the 1,300 families who work from this location.

JetBlue Airways Corporation is a major American low cost airline, and the seventh largest airline in North America by passengers carried. JetBlue Airways has made significant investment in New York City both in Long Island City, and at JFK International Airport, Terminal 5. JetBlue Airways and their partners are committed to the JFK T6/T7 Redevelopment Project, need to assure that the project is financeable and address the significant funding gap that remains.

In recent negotiations with the Mayor, I was privy to the deal that negotiated and extended JFK Airport's ground lease for an additional ten years through 2060. The lease extension should benefit all airport companies, as it will help airport companies and developers secure financing, and continue the airport's modernization in the redevelopment.

In discussions, I understand that JetBlue and their development partners, JFK Millennial Partners, has not been extended the same 10 year lease extension agreement and concessions for their project. JetBlue Airways wants to maintain their company profile as a low cost airline, something that might prove difficult if they are forced to compete with market rate airlines.

JetBlue Airways is a good corporate citizen, and we want them to remain an anchor company in Long Island City. Their Long Island City employees support the neighborhood businesses, and their presence has been an advantage for the Borough and the City in every conceivable way.

I urge you to offer JetBlue Airways similar concessions, and the 2060 lease extension as was offered to other companies. The same offer to JetBlue would be a responsible and equitable negotiated agreement for an appreciated hometown company as JetBlue Airways Corporation is to New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donovan Richards, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donovan Richards, Jr.  
*President*  
Borough of Queens

DR/sa

CC: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor  
Hon. Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator  
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator  
Hon. Thomas Suozzi, U.S. Congress – 3 C.D.  
Hon. Greg Meeks, U.S. Congress – 5 C.D.  
Hon. Grace Meng, U.S. Congress – 6 C.D.  
Hon. Nydia Velazquez, U.S. Congress – 7 C.D.  
Hon. Hakeem Jeffries, U.S. Congress – 8 C.D.  
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, U.S. Congress – 12 C.D.  
Hon. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, U.S. Congress – 14 C.D.