



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Milwaukee County

SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Fran McLaughlin (414) 278-4244 or (414) 235-6592

Pat Rowe (414) 747-4545 or (414) 788-1536

WALKER ANNOUNCES RECORD MAY PASSENGER COUNT FOR GENERAL MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT *Second Busiest Month on Record*

MILWAUKEE WI (July 1, 2010) – Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker announced today that the number of passengers using General Mitchell International Airport in May 2010 set a record for the month of May and was the second busiest month ever at the airport. May's total of 836,961 passengers was an increase of 35.25 percent over last May's 618,830 passengers. The May total marks nine straight months of record passenger growth.

Walker credited Mitchell's low fares and additional air service for May's dramatic increase in passengers. "Price is king in this economy," he said. "The low fares have attracted business travelers and vacationers from around the region, which gives a great boost to our local economy. The better our air service, the more attractive Milwaukee is to convention planners and business developers."

Airport Director Barry Bateman said, "With nationwide growth in passengers at 2% in May, the aviation industry is seeing just a gradual return to flying. Mitchell's growth in comparison was 35%. Travelers looking for a low-cost, yet convenient way to get to Chicago's northern suburbs are flying into Mitchell Airport."

Recently released U.S. Department of Transportation data for 4th Quarter 2009 show that the average airfare out of Milwaukee dropped lower than the average at 92 other U.S. airports. Mitchell's average fare was \$91 less than O'Hare's, \$72 less than the nation's average and, for the first time, less than Midway Airport's by \$10.

Market Data:

With 51 markets, Mitchell International has moved up to 28th among U.S. airports in number of markets served nonstop, according to data recently published by the Brookings Institute. Mitchell's rank in a similar 2004 study was 34th. The new ranking means that more nonstop markets are served out of Milwaukee than out of other Midwestern cities, such as Nashville; Pittsburgh; Indianapolis and Columbus, and out of medium-sized cities elsewhere in the U.S., including Portland, OR; Austin; New Orleans; San Diego; Raleigh/Durham; Albuquerque; San Antonio and Hartford, CT.

General Mitchell International Airport is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation & Public Works, 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. For more information on Mitchell International, visit www.mitchellairport.com.

###