



November 3, 2015

Human Trafficking Awareness Forum held at Hartsfield-Jackson

Event designed to inform and educate employees about efforts to battle trafficking

ATLANTA – A crowd of more than 100 Airport and airline employees joined federal, state and local law enforcement officials, City of Atlanta leaders, and the City's Consular Corps today to learn how to spot and stop human trafficking at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. "Providing education and creating awareness about this issue is our main goal today," Aviation General Manager Miguel Southwell told the crowd. "We have been actively working with our stakeholders and employees to teach them how to identify people who may be in danger."

Representatives from the F.B.I., the U.S. Attorney's office, the Department of Homeland Security, and youthSpark, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending human trafficking, joined Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens at the program. Speakers urged Airport and airline employees to closely observe passengers at Hartsfield-Jackson and to contact officials if passengers displayed characteristics of trafficking victims. "You are our eyes and ears," Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent Jason Godfrey told the audience.

Dorsey Jones, a former Fulton County Probation Officer, spoke from the unique perspective of a law enforcement official who also happened to be a human trafficking victim. She explained how, at the age of eleven, she was forced into human trafficking, but eventually overcame her circumstances, became a college graduate, and now works as a motivational speaker. "Many people are getting involved in this fight," she said today, "this event shows how important our work is, but our work isn't finished."

That work will continue at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Law enforcement officials point out that trafficking victims are likely to pass through the busiest airport in the world, and employees and travelers at Hartsfield-Jackson are uniquely situated to spot such victims. Airport leaders promise a robust training program to educate employees and passengers about human trafficking issues.

"We've got to stay involved," Dr. Alex Trouteaud, Executive Director of youthSpark, said today. "We have a lot of work to do."

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Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Hartsfield-Jackson (ATL) is the world's busiest and most efficient airport, serving more than 96.1 million passengers annually with nonstop service to more than 150 U.S. destinations and nearly 70 international destinations in more than 45 countries. ATL boasts a direct economic impact of \$34.8 billion in metro Atlanta and a total direct economic impact of \$70.9 billion in Georgia. The Airport is the largest employer in Georgia, with more than 63,000 employees. The Airport is a frequent recipient of awards of excellence

for concessions, operations, architectural engineering and construction – including the 2013 Global Efficiency Excellence Award from the Air Transport Research Society, 2013 Project of the Year, Architectural Category for the Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal from the American Association of Airport Executives Southeast chapter and the 2012 Best Airport in North America, Business Travel Award from the Business Traveler Magazine. ATL has completed more than \$6 billion worth of capital improvements, including a new, energy-efficient rental car center, a gold LEED-certified international terminal and aesthetic and functional upgrades to its concourses, people movers and parking services. For more information, go to www.atlanta-airport.com. Check out the Airport's YouTube channel by visiting www.youtube.com/AtlantaHartsfield, follow us on Twitter (@Atlanta_Airport) and become a fan on Facebook (Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport).

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS

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