



## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Spencer Cronk, City Manager

From: Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager *Gina Fiandaca*

Date: September 3, 2019

Subject: April 2019 Death of a Contract Worker at the Airport

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We write to provide an update on this sad situation involving the death of a contract employee at the airport. You may recall the news reports and information immediately following this incident. Liquid Environmental Solutions of Texas, LLC (LES) is a national company that specializes in grease trap cleaning and waste removal services. LES began servicing the airport's new grease trap in 2015, immediately upon the completion of the grease trap's construction. On April 10, 2019, two LES employees were servicing the grease trap when one of the employees, Lonnie Dearey was critically injured. Although both the Fire Department and EMS responded to the accident, Mr. Dearey subsequently passed away as a result of his injuries.

Immediately after the incident, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), opened an investigation into the incident and Liquid Environmental Solutions. To date, that investigation is on-going. LES was required by our contract to comply with all OSHA, City and local codes, standards, rules and regulations concerning safety. Although the City is not subject to OSHA regulations and enforcement, we are cooperating fully with the investigation.

On June 5, 2019, the City received a legal claim notice from an attorney representing the estate of Mr. Dearey. The City Attorney will provide further information regarding the claim under separate memo.

Currently, the City uses an alternative vendor to service the airport's grease trap and that contractor will provide cleaning and maintenance services until our Purchasing Office completes a new solicitation process for grease trap services—we expect that to be sometime before the end of the calendar year.

We understand that you and several members of the Airport Advisory Commission have received multiple media inquiries. Due to the on-going OSHA investigation and legal claims, we ask that you work with our PIO Office to respond to any media inquiries.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have.

Cc: Jacqueline Yaft, Airport Executive Director  
Airport Advisory Commission  
David Green, PIO