



# News Release

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For Immediate Release

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013

## **Rosemary Vassiliadis Named Director of Aviation** **15-year Industry Veteran Becomes 1st Woman to Lead Department**

County Manager Don Burnette announced today that he is appointing Rosemary A. Vassiliadis to serve as director of the Clark County Department of Aviation. Vassiliadis has been the department's deputy director since December 1997. She succeeds Randall H. Walker, who is retiring as director effective June 3.

"Rosemary is widely respected, here at home as well as elsewhere around the world, thanks to her many years of exceptional leadership at one of the nation's busiest airport systems," Burnette said. "Clark County's airports are recognized around the world for being well managed, even during very trying conditions brought on by our community's rapid growth in recent years. We're fortunate to have a great management team in place at the Department of Aviation, and we look forward to its continued success under Rosemary's tenure."

Vassiliadis, 55, would become the 11<sup>th</sup> person – and the first female – to serve as head of the Department of Aviation, whose assets include McCarran International Airport and four smaller general aviation airports in Southern Nevada. Her appointment is scheduled for ratification by the County Commission on March 5.

"I have great respect for this organization and the important role it plays in support of our local economy and the tourism industry that drives it," Vassiliadis said. "Over the past 15 years, I've worked with many great people and have been a part of an amazing success story here at McCarran. Our airports are very unique, and I understand the challenges we'll face, as well as the resources and strategies we'll employ in order to maintain our status as a global leader in the aviation industry."

McCarran annually ranks among the world's busiest airports, serving more than 41 million passengers in 2012. Under Vassiliadis' leadership, the airport has developed an industry-leading security program while maintaining a strong commitment to world-class customer service. Vassiliadis manages the work of nearly 1,500 employees divided among 10 divisions, ensuring that the airport system's operational plans are efficiently and effectively implemented. In addition, she has previously led the department in the absence of its director.

Vassiliadis works with several national organizations that are critical to the U.S. and global travel industries. Since February 2011, she has overseen McCarran's efforts as an Executive Board Member of the U.S. Travel Association, a Washington, D.C.-based trade group that promotes American travel interests both domestically and worldwide. Since 2009, Vassiliadis has been an advisory board member for the International Aviation Law Institute, a premier source for research, analysis and study of international aviation law and policy based out of the DePaul University College of Law in Chicago.

**-more-**

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In September 2011, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval appointed Vassiliadis a member of the Nevada Homeland Security Commission, which is responsible for setting goals and programs to counteract or prevent potential acts of terrorism or related emergencies. She had previously served in this role from August 2004 through July 2007. Vassiliadis has been a member of the United Service Organizations' Las Vegas Advisory Council since April 2010 and was proud to participate in the opening of Nevada's first USO Center at McCarran on Veterans Day 2010.

Vassiliadis came from the Clark County Department of Finance, where she amassed 16 years of progressive government experience. As director of finance for Clark County, she was responsible for a \$2.2 billion operating budget and a \$2.4 billion capital improvement plan. Before joining Clark County, she worked for the city of Las Vegas Finance Department, beginning as a financial analyst and progressing to manager of finance and budget.

A native of Chicago, Vassiliadis earned a bachelor's degree in accountancy from DePaul University. She and her husband have two children and enjoy a variety of community activities.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 14<sup>th</sup>-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 43 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 8<sup>th</sup>-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.