

For Immediate Release: June 30, 2016

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PHL Airport Exhibit Celebrates City's Presidential Convention History

PHILADELPHIA – Philadelphia's influence on American government and national politics is unique in the United States. Next month, the City will host its 12th presidential convention when the Democrats will convene at the Wells Fargo Center to nominate their candidate for President.

A new exhibit at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), *Philadelphia's Presidential Convention History 1848-2016*, captures every convention that has gathered in the city. The exhibit, located in Terminal A-East and accessible to ticketed passengers, was unveiled on June 30 as part of *Wawa Welcome America's!* official program. It will be on display until June 2017.

Airport CEO Chellie Cameron and Wawa Welcome America! Executive Director Jeff Guaracino attended the event as well as former Mayor and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, the Chairman of the Philadelphia 2016 Host Committee for the Democratic National Convention. Invited guests from the 2016 Host Committee were also present. This was the 9th consecutive year that an exhibition unveiling has been an official part of Welcome America, the City's week-long celebration leading up to July 4th. In the past, the Airport has presented special-themed exhibits including those celebrating the City's history of innovation, music legends, the Liberty Bell, and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"We are very proud of our rich history and we are excited to share it with travelers from all over the world," said Cameron. "We have a unique forum at the Airport to spread the word about Philadelphia's remarkable past and its exciting present. We're eager to welcome the DNC attendees to our Airport and our City next month and to show them this exhibition."

The first presidential national convention hosted in Philadelphia was in 1848 when the Whig political party convened and nominated Zachary Taylor as its presidential candidate. Eight years later in 1856, Philadelphia hosted two national presidential conventions – the American party and the first-ever Republican presidential convention. In total, Philadelphia has hosted 6 Republican conventions, 3 Democratic conventions, 1 Whig, 1 American, and 1 Progressive.

In 1948, Philadelphia hosted 3 national presidential conventions in one year – Republican, Democrat, and Progressive.

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The Airport's newest exhibition tells the story of Philadelphia's history in hosting Presidential Conventions dating to 1848.

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.