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PHL Airport Gearing Up for the Democratic National Convention

PHILADELPHIA – Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is prepared to greet tens of thousands of delegates, party officials, journalists, and spectators who will travel to the city for the Democratic National Convention (DNC) July 25-28. The Airport plans a warm welcome for the attendees as they begin to arrive the weekend prior to the start of the convention.-

“Many of these folks will be traveling by air to Philadelphia for the convention, and the Airport will be their first impression of the City. We want to make sure it’s a positive one,” said Airport CEO Chellie Cameron. “We have a unique opportunity to connect with the people attending the convention and to ensure that they begin and end their visit with a good feeling about Philadelphia.”

Beginning on Friday, July 22, the Division of Aviation will deploy employees throughout the terminals to greet and assist delegates. In addition, volunteers from the DNC Host Committee and the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB) will be stationed in the baggage claim areas to help convention attendees.

In the Airport, visitors will be serenaded by The Sound of Philadelphia, popular songs by Philadelphia’s own legendary producers and songwriters Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. The music is playing in the terminals this month.

In the baggage claim areas on Saturday and Sunday, July 23-24, visitors will be treated to a taste of Philadelphia with complimentary Tastykakes and soft pretzels. They will meet Philadelphia’s historical figures Benjamin Franklin, Betsy Ross, and Alexander Hamilton as portrayed today on Broadway. (Hamilton, the first Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, lived in Philadelphia from 1790-95) The characters will be handing out Colonial flags with a 13-star circle like the one produced by Betsy Ross.

The Airport has partnered with the Bryn Mawr Film Institute and History Making Productions to provide a pop-up theater in B/C bag claim. Travelers can watch a series of short documentaries that feature Philadelphia’s rich cultural and innovative history.

Throughout the Airport’s seven terminals, retail shops and restaurants will have storefronts decorated, special sales and DNC merchandise for purchase.

In addition, the Airport’s landscape has been enhanced and taxis at the Airport will be offered a free wash on Thursday, July 21.

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To accommodate the departure of attendees on Friday, July 29, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has agreed to deploy additional screeners to PHL.

On June 30, the Airport unveiled an exhibition, *Philadelphia's History of Presidential Conventions, 1848-Present*. The exhibition, which is on display in Terminal A-East to ticketed passengers through June 2017, highlights the 12 Presidential conventions the city has hosted. The 11th took place in 2000 when Philadelphia was the site of the Republican National Convention.

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.