



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: March 29, 2016

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
Press Secretary (315) 448-8044

**MINER CALLS ON AIRLINES TO EXPAND SERVICE
CAPACITY FROM SYRACUSE TO HOUSTON BEFORE
SYRACUSE ORANGE PLAYS IN NCAA FINAL FOUR**

*In a Letter to CEOs of Delta, JetBlue, and American Airlines, Miner
Urges Increased Capacity So SU Orange Fans Can Travel With the
Team to Houston for the Final Four*

*Miner: I Urge These Airlines to Recognize New Demand for Flights This
Week*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner today urged the CEOs of Delta, JetBlue, and American Airlines to expand their service capacity from Syracuse to Houston, Texas in advance of the NCAA Final Four basketball tournament.

“This is a great opportunity for the community to rally around the team and, for those who wish to go to Houston, cheer them on in the arena,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “I urge these airlines to recognize the new demand for flights this week and increase the capacity to accommodate more interested travelers.”

Currently, these three airlines do not have direct flights between Syracuse and Houston but they do offer select flights with simple connections in other cities. The Mayor’s letter seeks additional capacity to accommodate fans who are travelling from Syracuse to Houston for the Final Four. The Syracuse University men’s basketball team is making their second run in the Final Four in three years. The team won an NCAA national championship game in 2003.

Mayor Miner’s full letter appears below.

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Robin Hayes
CEO, JetBlue

27-01 Queens Plaza North
Long Island City, NY 11101

Doug Parker

CEO, American Airlines
4333 Amon Carter Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX 76155

Ed Bastian

CEO, Delta Airlines
P.O. Box 20706
Atlanta, GA 30320-6001

Dear Sirs:

As Mayor of the City of Syracuse and a Syracuse University alumna, I joined my community in excitement when I learned the Orange would be playing in the Final Four in Houston. We all remember the electric feeling of past Final Fours when our hometown team did well, and the incredible victory we won in 2003. This is an opportunity that many fans would like to have to experience personally and I am writing to ask you give them that chance.

While none of your carriers currently offer direct flights from Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR) to Houston's airports, the George Bush Intercontinental (IAH) and the William P. Hobby (HOU) facilities, your airlines do provide flights which connect with relative ease. Given what I anticipate will be greater demand for customers travelling between Syracuse and Houston this week, I ask that you consider adding additional capacity to accommodate more travelers in the coming days. I can assure you that there is a customer base of eager fans looking for affordable flights to Houston who would quickly purchase seats and fill up planes.

A national championship run isn't simply about winning a game; it is about uniting the spirit of community around something we can all celebrate. This is a tremendous opportunity for Syracuse's businesses and will certainly be a boon to the airlines who seek to add greater capacity. I appreciate your consideration this week. Please do not hesitate to reach out directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Miner
Mayor of Syracuse

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