

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE QUESTIONNAIRE

Jerome P. Dion, Candidate for St. Augustine Airport Authority, Seat 5

1. What are your qualifications for this elected position?

I have over 30 years' experience in public program planning, budgeting, design, management, and evaluation. I have designed and conducted stakeholder engagement processes at the state and federal levels and led a collaborative of multiple National Laboratories on institutional change. I served as a Research Fellow at the National Defense University and held a security clearance required for working with the Department of Defense. This experience is well suited for potential engagement with Northrop Grumman, the Airport's key long-term tenant. As a retired individual I have no potential conflicts of interests that could interfere with the responsibilities of an elected member of the Airport Authority.

2. If elected, what are your goals for this office and what would you like to achieve in this position?

The most pressing issues for the Airport Authority include transparency and accountability to the citizens of the First Coast. Competent administration of current airport operations and finances is insufficient to prepare the airport for the future transportation needs of the growing St. Johns County population and business community. Authority members need to ensure that all stakeholders are asked for their input into future plans, and all stakeholders are kept fully informed of actions being taken to meet current and future airport goals. Performance metrics covering the full breadth of airport operation should be established and reported to the public. The Authority should benchmark its performance against other airports of similar size, using results to drive improvement. As an elected member of the Authority I will work towards making these changes through active participation both with the airport administration and all stakeholder groups.

3. What is your vision for the County?

If elected to the St. Augustine Airport Authority, I would work to find opportunities to better serve the interests broader residential and business community. The North East Florida Regional Airport, while competently operated for the Airport's onsite tenants, has the potential to more fully serve the needs of the citizens of the First Coast. I believe this can be achieved by assuring all stakeholders are afforded meaningful participation in airport planning and providing regular updates to the community on Airport goals and progress. Continued collaboration among the Airport Authority and the St. Johns County Commission, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Florida Department of Transportation would remain essential.

4. What is your educational background?

I earned a Master of Urban Planning from the School of Architecture and Planning, University of Buffalo. I also earned a B.A. in Geography, with minors in Mathematics and Chemistry, also from the University of Buffalo.