

October 30, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Noah Karberg
Airport Manager
Nantucket Memorial Airport
14 Airport Road
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554
NKarberg@nantucketairport.com

Re: Nantucket Memorial Airport COVID-19 Grant Funding Review

Dear Manager Karberg:

The Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) mission is to prevent and detect the fraud, waste and abuse of public funds and property. Within the OIG, the Internal Special Audit Unit (ISAU or Unit) was created by the Legislature in 2009 to monitor transportation and transit programs and spending. The ISAU manages a public-facing fraud hotline for Massachusetts residents and employees to report alleged fraudulent acts and performs proactive reviews to promote transparency and efficiency in government.

As part of its proactive role, and in accordance with the ISAU's Chapter 6C mandate, the Unit reviewed Nantucket Memorial Airport's (Nantucket) use of certain federal grant funds. This included grants under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSA), and the Airport Rescue Grant - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) (collectively referred to as "COVID-19 grant funding"). The amount of COVID-19 grant funding Nantucket received totaled \$10,020,437. The ISAU's review period was from May 11, 2020, which is the date of the first COVID-19 grant awarded to Nantucket, to August 10, 2022, which is the date of the final requests for reimbursement.

As part of this review, the ISAU team reviewed relevant COVID-19 grant funding guidance from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Additionally, the ISAU conducted multiple meetings with staff from MassDOT's Aeronautics Division, the FAA, and Nantucket Memorial Airport. The ISAU also reviewed grant documents and reimbursement requests that Nantucket provided, as well as grant documents and expenditure data that MassDOT's Aeronautics Division provided.

The ISAU has completed its review and found that airport management appropriately expended the \$10,020,437 COVID-19 grant funding it received in accordance with FAA's criteria. The ISAU found that Nantucket's reimbursement requests under each of the COVID-19 grants were reasonable and in compliance with FAA expense guidelines. Furthermore, Nantucket incurred the expenses during the permissible period of performance for each grant.

We appreciate Nantucket's time and cooperation during this review. The Internal Special Audit Unit is available to assist Nantucket Memorial Airport in the future should your organization encounter suspected fraud, waste or abuse by your vendors or within your operations. Please do not hesitate to contact our transportation fraud hotline at (855) 963-2580, or the ISAU Director at Emily.Pedersen@mass.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Shapiro, Esq., CIG
Inspector General

cc (by email):

Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, MassDOT
Denise Garcia, Acting Administrator, MassDOT Aeronautics Division
Rodolfo Giannandrea, Chief of Strategy, Innovation and Finance, MassDOT Aeronautics Division
Jason Thibault, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer, MassDOT
Susanne M. O'Neil, Deputy Inspector General, OIG
Emily Pedersen, Director, Internal Special Audit Unit, OIG
Nataliya Urciuoli, Senior Executive Assistant, OIG