

Hanscom Field Advisory Commission

August 14, 2026

Christopher Willenborg
Director
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Dear Mr. Willenborg,

Massport operates Hanscom airfield and answers to a wide range of stakeholders with different and sometimes conflicting priorities as part of executing their mission. Currently, the use of Hanscom for ICE transport is deeply concerning to community members who live in the area the airport serves. Attendees at recent Hanscom Field Advisory Commission meetings have raised the concern that ICE is acting with undue haste to move detainees from Massachusetts using Hanscom Airfield as quickly as possible to deprive them of access to lawyers and family members and is purposefully making information about who is being transported where incomplete and too late to be actionable.

Because of these concerns, HFAC has agreed to ask Massport for help that would make it possible for the public to understand the breadth and specifics of how ICE is using Hanscom. We are requesting that Massport implement technology to enable better observation of those flights in order to satisfy this important group of stakeholders. We understand that Massport is not in a position to pick and choose who uses the airfield, and we understand that it cannot allow activities that would risk the safety of airport operations. However, this provides a way to demonstrate Massport's commitment to being a good neighbor.

HFAC is also asking Massport to communicate to the State Police and other security staff that it respects the right of observers to watch and record ICE actions as long as they stay within areas that are open to the public.

The following two motions were unanimously approved at the August 11, 2026 HFAC meeting.

HFAC asks Massport to treat all airfield observers in public areas of the airport equally, without restrictions on duration or use of recording equipment.

HFAC requests Massport to provide publicly viewable web cameras to observe and record all transfer of detainees and the vehicles involved, similar to the system used at King County International Airport-Boeing Field.

We ask Massport to work collaboratively with designated members of HFAC to develop a solution that addresses both the constraints Massport must consider and the needs of the community for transparency

in how the airfield is being used. We ask that the request for observation capabilities be addressed in a timely manner including providing an adequate temporary solution while improved capabilities are arranged.

We look forward to reviewing a response at our September 15, 2026 HFAC meeting.

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Chair
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