

## **Subject: Air Connection Statia –Bonaire, Renaming of F.D.R Airport**

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### **Air connection Statia – Bonaire**

Since December 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 a temporary weekly scheduled flight was introduced between Bonaire and St. Eustatius. The flight was operated by WinAir and from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2020, it was scheduled every Tuesday. The airplane, with a capacity of 40 people, departs St. Eustatius at 09:15 o'clock and departs Bonaire at 12:00 o'clock. The flight takes about 2 hours. Saba and St. Eustatius are mutually connected according to the regular flight schedule of WinAir. This way, all islands in the Caribbean Netherlands are connected.

The flight at the time was announced as a temporary solution by BZK to assist residents, e.g. students, business travelers, and people who visit the islands for family matters. The situation was to be evaluated every two weeks and it is then determined whether the flights are continued.

BZK subsidized the flights through a seat guarantee.

This flight has been discontinued without informing the public or the local government at the end of April 2021.

During the time the flight was in service, Winair has never promoted flight. It is unknown if people from St. Eustatius made use of the service or if they even were aware of the existence of this service. It is unknown what the average seat occupancy of the flights was. It is therefore also unclear why the flight has been discontinued and whether the reasons to introduce the flights are no longer relevant.

### **Renaming the airport**

The present airport was named Golden Rock Airport in 1946, but shortly thereafter has been renamed in after F.D. Roosevelt, former president of the United States, who visited the island in 1939.

From the community the call comes to rename the airport and name it in honor of a Statian. This can for instance be someone who has been a pioneer in local aviation or early airport operations. For this purpose, a committee can be installed to choose a suitable name that carries the approval of the majority of our population.

Naming the airport after a local hero or pioneer will contribute towards local pride, nation building, and local pride.