

**THOMAS C. LEPPERT  
MAYOR**



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **MAYOR LEPPERT, CM NATINSKY TRAVEL TO TAIWAN *Trade Mission Seeks to Boost Ties, Gain Flights***

Mayor Tom Leppert, City Councilmember Ron Natinsky and a Dallas delegation are heading to Taiwan for several days to promote trade and work towards a direct flight between Taipei and DFW Airport.

While the bulk of the City's Asian trade efforts have focused on China, the Mayor and the delegation are working to boost trade, cultural and tourism ties with Taiwan as well.

"Taiwan is a major trading partner," said Mayor Leppert. "Our hope is that we can build a strong foundation with Taiwan as we have done with China."

Taiwan is the region's 4<sup>th</sup> largest international trading partner. Cargo activity between the two grew by 123% in the past decade. In fact, 10% of all DFW's air cargo trade from Asia comes from Taiwan.

Mr. Natinsky and the delegation departed Friday and will return Thursday. Mayor Leppert will join the delegation next Tuesday and return Wednesday.

Mayor Leppert will be a keynote speaker on Tuesday, April 28 at the 2009 International Conference on Aerotropolis. The conference is focusing on integrating airports and their resources in the surrounding areas to boost economic competitiveness in a global economy.

Mayor Leppert is also meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister Andrew Hsia and other top ranking government officials. He will be meeting with the Mayor of Taipei, Dr. Lung-Bin Hau and the Speaker of the City Council, Bi-chu Wu as well.

On Monday, Mr. Natinsky, Chair of the Council's Economic Development Committee and officials from DFW will be meeting with both EVA Air and China Air to discuss getting the direct DFW-Taipei flight. He will meet with several other businesses as well.

Mayor Leppert and Councilmember Natinsky are traveling as guests of the Taiwan government.

## **DELEGATION INCLUDES:**

- **Mayor Tom Leppert**, City of Dallas
- **Councilmember Ron Natinsky**, Chairman, Economic Development Committee, City of Dallas
- **Mrs. Nancy Natinsky**, City of Dallas
- **George K.W. Chee**, Assistant Director/Economic Development, City of Dallas
- **Eugene Shen**, Sr Coordinator/International Business, City of Dallas
- **Beth Huddleston**, Chief of Protocol, City of Dallas
- **Robert Weichen Hsueh**, Board of Directors, DFW International Airport Board
- **Joe Lopano**, Executive Vice President, DFW International Airport
- **Mingtzung Tsao**, Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors
- **Gary Thomas**, CEO, Dallas Area Rapid Transit
- **Kay Thomas**, Dallas Area Rapid Transit
- **Charles Ku**, Chairman, Dallas-Taipei Sister City Committee
- **Mary Ku**, Board of Directors, Dallas-Taipei Sister City Committee
- **Peter Kimseng Ng**, Board of Directors, Dallas-Taipei Sister City Committee
- **Shuhuei Ng**, Board of Directors, Dallas-Taipei Sister City Committee
- **Alex Lin**, Board of Directors, Dallas-Taipei Sister City Committee
- **Kathy Lin**, Board of Directors, Dallas-Taipei Sister City Committee
- **Chang Tsao Chin-Ho**, Board of Directors, Dallas-Taipei Sister City Committee
- **Yih-min Jan**, Board of Directors, Dallas-Taipei Sister City Committee
- **Chung-hua Jan**, Board of Directors, Dallas-Taipei Sister City Committee
- **Luis Spinola, President**, Azteca-Omega Group
- **Lourdes Spinola**, Azteca-Omega Group
- **Sheng-peng Chen**, Director, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston