## MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC APRIL 7 – 10, 2025

## RESTORE FUNDING FOR LEO GRANTS AND CANINE-TEAM REIMBURSEMENTS

**ISSUE:** House and Senate Appropriations Committees are finalizing FY 2025 spending bills for the federal government. Over the last several years, funding cuts continue to be made eliminating funding for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Law Enforcement (LEO) reimbursement programs and the officer's stipend for state and local-led canine teams, shifting these costs to airport operators.

<u>ACTION:</u> The Monday Morning Group urges federal elected leaders and officials to advocate for the restoration of funding for TSA staffing of exit lanes (\$110,990,000), the LEO Reimbursement program (\$45,059,000), and State and local LEO-handled canine teams (\$34,100,000), as called for in the House DHS appropriations bill for FY 2025.

**BACKGROUND:** Ongoing efforts aim to reach an agreement on overall FY 2025 spending levels, allowing for decisions on individual programs, including those within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), TSA, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). With historic cuts to funding, airports have been forced to divert resources from other security purposes to pay officer salaries. Additionally, some airports have had to reduce the number of canine teams operating in their facilities, reducing visible deterrence measures.

The elimination of funding for TSA's LEO reimbursement program in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (FY 2024 Appropriations) resulted in a \$321,200 annual impact to Ontario International Airport's (ONT) law enforcement capabilities. These grants partially reimburse LEOs who respond to possible threats, like firearms or fentanyl, during the checkpoint screening process at ONT as TSA screeners do not have the authority to detain or make arrests.

The House-passed and Senate-introduced bills propose \$45.6 million for LEO reimbursement grants and restore funding for the state and local-led canine team reimbursements. The Monday Morning Group urges Congress to fully restore funding for these two critical programs in FY 2025.