#### BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Application of	)	
JETBLUE AIRWAYS CORPORATION	)	
for an exemption and	)	Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021
allocation of frequencies	)	
	)	

# APPLICATION OF JETBLUE AIRWAYS CORPORATION FOR AN EXEMPTION AND ALLOCATION OF FREQUENCIES

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April 20, 2017

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## APPLICATION OF JETBLUE AIRWAYS CORPORATION FOR AN EXEMPTION AND ALLOCATION OF FREQUENCIES

In light of Spirit and Frontier terminating service to Havana, Cuba, on May 31, 2017, and June 4, 2017, respectively, JetBlue hereby applies for seven weekly frequencies in order to provide additional non-stop service between Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Havana, Cuba, and to inaugurate the first ever non-stop service between Boston, Massachusetts and Havana, Cuba. JetBlue proposes to begin the additional services on November 1, 2017, in order to capitalize on the success of JetBlue's initial entry into Cuba, which has provided customers in both countries with access to JetBlue's low airfares and award-winning service.

JetBlue currently provides daily non-stop service from New York to Havana, daily non-stop service from Orlando to Havana, and 13 times weekly service from Fort Lauderdale to Havana. JetBlue wishes to provide additional service from Fort Lauderdale

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Common names for airlines are used herein. Pursuant to the Department's dormancy clause in Order 2016-8-38, the frequencies Spirit and Frontier currently hold will automatically expire and revert to the Department for reallocation if not utilized for a period of 90 days, once inaugurated. Spirit and Frontier could also choose to return the unused frequencies to the Department for reallocation concurrent with their cessation of service.

to Havana and requests six weekly frequencies in order to increase its service levels on that route. JetBlue also proposes to begin the first-ever non-stop service between Boston and Havana with Saturday service and requests one weekly frequency in order to inaugurate this service.<sup>2</sup> JetBlue will use 162-seat Airbus A320 aircraft from its existing fleet with the following schedule:

Origin	Destination	Days of Week	Departure	Arrival
FLL	HAV	Sun-Fri	1625	1745
HAV	FLL	Sun-Fri	1900	2015
BOS	HAV	Sat	0945	1345
HAV	BOS	Sat	1500	1845

As such, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109 and Subpart C of the Department's Rules of Practice, JetBlue requests an exemption from 49 U.S.C. § 41101 authorizing it to engage in scheduled foreign air transportation service of persons, property and mail between Boston, Massachusetts and Havana, Cuba, and an allocation of seven weekly frequencies to serve Boston and Fort Lauderdale.<sup>3</sup> JetBlue requests that its exemption authority be granted for a period of at least two (2) years and that the seven weekly frequencies be granted for an indefinite basis.

In support of this application, JetBlue states as follows:

1. JetBlue is a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Delaware with its principal place of business at 27-01 Queens Plaza North, Long Island City, NY 11101.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Both of these frequencies were previously requested by JetBlue. *See* "Application of JetBlue Airways for Exemption Authority and US-Cuba Frequencies," March 2, 2016, Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> JetBlue already holds economic authority to serve Havana from Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, and New York. As such, it does not require additional economic authority to increase frequency levels on the Fort Lauderdale-Havana route. DOT Order 2016-8-38.

- 2. JetBlue is a citizen of the United States as that term is defined in 49 U.S.C § 40102(a)(15). JetBlue's President and Chief Executive Officer and at least two-thirds of the members of its board of directors and managing officers are citizens of the United States, and at least 75 percent of JetBlue's voting stock is owned by citizens of the United States.
- 3. JetBlue holds a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Interstate Air Transportation and various exemption and certificate authorities authorizing it to engage in foreign air transportation, including to Cuba.<sup>4</sup> On August 31, 2016, the Department granted JetBlue an exemption to provide scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property, and mail between (1) Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Havana, Cuba; (2) New York, New York, and Havana Cuba; and (3) Orlando, Florida, and Havana, Cuba.<sup>5</sup> JetBlue is fit, willing and able to provide the services proposed herein and respectfully requests the Department take official notice of all information contained in these dockets and orders pursuant to Rule 24.
- 4. The authority JetBlue seeks is fully consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Cuba, signed February 16, 2016. This application will have no effect on JetBlue's Civil Reserve Air Fleet commitments and approval of this application will not result in the near-term consumption of ten (10) million or more gallons of fuel.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See DOT Order 2000-2-7, February 4, 2000 and DOT Order 2007-7-3, May 7, 2007. See also Notice of Action Taken, Docket DOT-OST-2010-0228, September 28, 2010 (granting exemption authority to serve Turks & Caicos), Notice of Action Taken, Docket DOT-OST-2015-0019, February 11, 2015 (granting exemption authority to serve Grenada), and Notice of Action Taken, Docket DOT-OST-2016-0154, August 10, 2016 (granting exemption authority to serve Mexico).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See DOT Order 2016-8-38.

5. Issuance of this authority is consistent with the public interest and will allow JetBlue to continue providing the traveling public in both countries with award-winning, low-fare service.

WHEREFORE, JetBlue respectfully requests the Department grant it an exemption and allocation of frequencies, as described above.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn D. Sahr

Drew M. Derco

Reese Davidson

Counsel for JetBlue Airways Corporation

April 20, 2017

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Application of JetBlue Airways Corporation was served by electronic mail this  $20^{th}$  day of April, 2017 on the following:

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