



## JMAA head issues State of Airport address

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*  
 Carl D. Newman, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority chief executive officer, delivered his State of the Airport address to a crowd of business and community leaders and staff of JMAA at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Two members of the Jackson City Council – Ashby Foote, Ward 1; and Tyrone Hendrix, Ward 6; were in attendance.

Preliminary remarks from JMAA Board of Commissioners Chairman Dr. Rosie L.T. Prid-



**Newman**  
of the board.

gen included a statement on behalf of the board regarding the proposed legislation that would alter the make-up of the board.

“It is the unanimous position of this five-member Board of Commissioners that we oppose any and all efforts to re-constitute the structure, composition, appointments, confirmations and/or any other measures of the Board of Commissioners for the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority”, said Pridgen.

Newman, who started working at JMAA one year ago, noted several accomplishments of the Airport Authority in his address.

• The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority entered into an agreement with Trustmark National Bank in September 2015, to refund \$25 million in airport revenue refunding bonds. This agreement translates in to

a \$3.7 million in net present value savings as a result of the refinancing.

• In April of 2015, Fitch Ratings, the internationally recognized ratings agency providing issuer and bond ratings research for banks, corporations, sovereigns, and other agencies, affirmed the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority’s Airport Revenues with a triple B-plus (BBB+) rating a “Stable” outlook.

The success of JMAA’s economic impact is also realized

through the contributions of JMAA family and business partners. The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority and its business partners, provide employment for 1,442 persons combined at Jackson-Evers International and Hawkins Field airports. The impact to the community is seen through revenue generated by visitors and business travelers patronizing restaurants, retail outlets, and other travel related businesses in Jackson.

• In 2015, JMAA recorded

48 percent of JMAA’s contract obligations awarded to City of Jackson based businesses, with an additional 3 percent awarded to other areas in Mississippi. A noted \$10.9 million was awarded overall with more than \$5.2 million awarded to Jackson based businesses.

• JMAA’s 2015 federally funded projects yielded more than \$1.29 million or 9 percent of its federal dollars paid to

**JMAA**  
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## Sworn in to serve

### Hinds County officials take oath of office



Hinds County Sheriff Victor Mason, surrounded by friends and family, is sworn in to office by Judge Tomie Green. PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON

By Shanderia K. Posey  
 Editor

Hinds County’s newly elected officials have been sworn in and started their new jobs.

Courtroom No. 1 at the Hinds County Courthouse was packed Dec. 30, 2015, for the swearing-in ceremony presided by Judge Tomie T. Green.

“The campaign is over. The job begins,” Green said. “What’s the challenge of public service? It’s to be strong but not rude. Be kind but not weak. To be bold but not bullying. To be thoughtful but not lazy. To be humble but not timid. To be proud but not arrogant. That is my charge as a senior circuit judge.”

Family and friends filled the courtroom to celebrate the swearing in of new and incumbent officials. New officials included Victor Mason, sheriff; Michael Morgan, supervisor, District 4;



Circuit Clerk Zack Wallace poses with his family following the swearing-in ceremony.

Bobby McGowan, supervisor, District 5; Zack Wallace, circuit clerk; and Leon Seals, constable, District 4.

Typically newly elected officials are sworn in last during the ceremony, but there was an exception this time. Wallace was the first official sworn in during the ceremony because former Hinds County Circuit Clerk Barbara Dunn had to leave early. Dunn, who was first elected into the position in 1984, gave Wallace the oath of office.

“First of all I would like to thank God for allowing me the opportunity to be here today. Thank you all for supporting me. I’m asking all of you to pray for me as I hold this office. I have a lot of respect for this office, so if I’m doing anything wrong ... come to me,” Wallace said.

Chancery Judge Patricia Wise gave the oath to

**Hinds**  
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## New representatives, senators begin legislative session

By Stephanie R. Jones  
 Contributing Writer

The Mississippi Legislature began its 2016 session on Tuesday with the addition of 25 new members of the House of Representatives and seven new members of the Senate. Among the new members are eight African Americans in the House and two in the Senate.

Legislators were joined in the packed chambers by family members, colleagues and friends for the swearing in.

Joining the House are:

- Chris Bell, Jackson, District 65,

Hinds County

- Cedric Burnett, Tunica, District 9 Coahoma, Quitman, Tate and Tunica counties
- Jarvis Dortch, Raymond, District 66, Hinds County
- Kabir Kareem, Columbus, District 41, Lowndes County
- Carl Milkens, Brooksville, District 42, Lowndes, Noxubee and Winston counties
- Orlando W. Paden, Clarksdale, District 26, Bolivar and Coahoma counties
- Kathy Sykes, Jackson, District 70, Hinds County

- Kenneth Walker of Carthage, District 27, Attala, Leake, Madison and Yazoo counties

New to the Senate side are:

- Juan Barnett, Heidelberg, District 34, Forrest, Jasper, Jones and Smith counties
- Tammy Felder Witherspoon, McComb, District 38, Adams, Amite, Pike, Walthall and Wilkinson counties.

Several of the freshman representatives pointed to education

**Session**  
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Kathy Sykes was sworn in as District 70 representative for Hinds County. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE R. JONES

## Stokes draws outrage over controversial comment

From staff reports

Jackson’s Ward 3 City Councilman Kenneth Stokes’ recent comments on how he would handle police from other jurisdictions who pursue suspects into the city have garnered national attention.

On Dec. 31, 2015, in an interview with local media Stokes said, “What I suggest, we get the black leadership together and as these jurisdictions come into Jackson we throw rocks and bricks and bottles at them. That’ll send a message, we don’t want you in here.”



**Stokes**

The comments were made after Ward 3 residents expressed their concerns to Stokes following a Dec. 24 chase in the area that reportedly involved officers from three outside cities.

Some of the initial responses from Stokes’ statement came from other law enforcement agencies.

Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey called Stokes’ statements “complete ignorance.” Bailey went on to say that young people who may not understand the law could be persuaded to act on Stokes’ suggestion and get hurt.

Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker said he will hold Stokes responsible if a Madison County law en-

**Stokes**  
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## Obama announces executive action on gun control

By Josh Lederman  
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Tears streaking his cheeks, President Barack Obama launched a final-year push Tuesday to tighten sales of firearms in the U.S., using his presidential powers in the absence of tougher gun restrictions that Congress has refused to pass.



**Obama**

The president struck a combative tone as he came out with plans for expanded background checks and other modest measures that have drawn consternation from gun rights groups, which Obama accused of making Congress their hostage. Palpable, too, was Obama’s extreme frustration at having made such little progress on gun control since the killing of 20 first-graders in Connecticut confronted the nation more than three years ago.

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