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From the Albuquerque Business First:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/news/2019/08/23/city-says-it-received-payment-from-departed.html>

City says it's working to recoup money invested in departed Mexican airline

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The Albuquerque International Sunport has recouped some of the funding it provided to the now-exited Volaris Airlines and is in talks to get back more of its investment, according to the city.

Sunport spokeswoman Stephanie Kitts said, as of this week, the Sunport has collected back \$97,450 from Mexico-based Volaris from an airport incentive program for international service it provided to the airline. Kitts said the negotiations remain ongoing as of Friday for the rest of Volaris' repayment to the Sunport, which remains in flux as the Sunport continues to review invoices. Including the incentive program funding, the city invested more \$1.5 million in Volaris' service from the Sunport to Mexico, according to a letter between the two parties obtained by Business First.



COURTESY OF MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Albuquerque International Sunport said negotiations remain ongoing as of Friday for the rest of Volaris Airlines' repayment to the Sunport.

When asked for comment on the negotiations, Volaris declined comment Friday.

The Sunport announced July 1 that the Mexico-based airline would no longer provide service at the airport, effective immediately. Volaris cited a lack of passenger demand for ending its Guadalajara and Chihuahua, Mexico, routes from the Sunport.

The city claimed Volaris declined to continue the Chihuahua service unless Albuquerque and Chihuahua provided subsidies that were not part of the original agreement. The Chihuahua service launched in June. Asked for a response to the city's claims last month, Volaris also declined to provide further comment.

For the first year of the International Airline Competition Incentive Program, which the Sunport began offering last July, the Sunport offers a 100% fee reduction on the airline's landing fees, flight information service fees, terminal rentals, non-preferential use fees, baggage claim fees and loading bridge operation fees. For the second year of the incentive, the Sunport covers 75% of the fees aside from the landing fees, which remain unchanged at 100%.

Sunport passenger statistics show Volaris had 398 total enplanements and deplanements in June — the latest available statistics. The airline's first flight at the Sunport took off for Guadalajara in November. Albuquerque had lacked international air service for eight years prior to the commencement of the Guadalajara route.

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