

Cuyahoga County Airport Noise Abatement Council Report of April 8, 2021

Dear Mayor Gardner and Members of Council:

The Cuyahoga County Airport Noise Abatement Council (NAC) was scheduled to hold its quarterly meeting on April 8, 2021, via conference call due to continuing COVID-19 measures. However, the meeting was cancelled at the recommendation of John Myers of the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works, who noted that there are no recent complaints submitted to the airport and who expressed hope that the NAC can meet in person for its next quarterly meeting.

Nevertheless, Mr. Myers did provide members with a copy of the fully executed **“Joint Statement for the Cuyahoga County Airport,”** a non-binding, voluntary agreement among the various governmental entities, airport tenants and users that are represented on the NAC.

The Joint Statement has been in the works for nearly four years and is significant in documenting a shared commitment to minimize airport-related noise. Although most of its history predates my appointment as the City’s representative to the NAC, it is my understanding that consensus was largely reached quite some time ago but getting sign-off from all parties was a lengthy process. Then-mayor Robert Weger signed on behalf of the City of Willoughby Hills.

To summarize:

- The Joint Statement acknowledges that “there is an awareness on the part of the County and the communities surrounding the Airport that the operation and activity at the Airport may generate an adverse noise impact on the surrounding areas...”
- It resolves that the County, the Airport Administration, the FAA Air Traffic Control Facility and the Tenants and Users of the Airport **“*hereby commit to minimize the noise impact on the environment in the vicinity of the Airport by agreeing to abide by, to the greatest extent possible, the following conditions, procedures and policies...*”** (emphasis added)

Some of the measures that are spelled out are similar to practices previously in effect, the difference being that the various parties have now put their commitment in writing and on the record. Provisions that may be of particular interest to Willoughby Hills neighbors include commitments to:

- Initiate and monitor voluntary Airport procedures whereby all aircraft are requested not to schedule take offs or landings at the Airport, between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

- Discourage the use of the Airport for flight-training purposes by all turbojet and turboprop aircraft at all times.
- Discourage through education any training flights by any category of aircraft between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Request the Air Traffic Control Facility to advise all turbojet, turboprop and multi-engine aircraft to climb out to a minimum altitude of 1900 feet MSL (Mean Sea Level) or a minimum distance of two miles before making any turns.
- Encourage minimal use of reverse thrust consistent with safe flight operations and runway conditions.
- Discontinue aircraft engine maintenance run-ups between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- Recommend full power aircraft engine run-ups be conducted at a designated remote run-up area.
- Maintain appropriate signage adjacent to takeoff points to remind pilots when they are in a noise sensitive area.

A copy of the Joint Statement is attached to this report.

* * *

During the first quarter of the year the City received one resident inquiry via its email address (airport@willoughbyhills-oh.gov) for questions or concerns about the airport. The resident questioned the potential noise impact and the approval process involved with the FlexJet project at the Airport.

The Airport's website (<http://publicworks.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/County-Airport.aspx>) includes a "public notice of availability" of a "**Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for FlexJet Global Operations Control Center,**" which was approved by the FAA in February.

Specifically, page 6 of the assessment states the following:

- **The Proposed Action does not result in a significant noise impact over noise sensitive areas.** The Proposed Project would not result in a significant increase in aircraft operations, nighttime operations, or change in aircraft mix. Flight patterns, runway use and utilization would not change during construction of or after implementation of the Proposed Project.

- **The Proposed Action is consistent with community planning.** The Proposed Project was reviewed by the following community planning entities: City of Richmond Heights Architectural Review Board, City of Richmond Heights Planning Commission, City of Richmond Heights Planning and Zoning Committee, and City of Richmond Heights City Council.

The complete assessment, which is more than 500 pages long, is available for review at the Airport's offices by appointment or via download at http://publicworks.cuyahogacounty.us/pdf_publicworks/en-US/FAAFinalEAFlexjetGlobalOperationsCenter.pdf

Gary Pratt