

**Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport Community Advisory Committee Meeting:
Public Comments, January 27, 2022**

Matthew:

Hi, good evening. I'm Matthew. I'm a local pilot and I'm familiar with Whiteman. Wrote an article about the airport in the January 12th edition of the San Fernando Sun, where I explained the current situation. As everyone knows educational activities and public safety operations benefiting the community, go on every day at the airport. It's very disgraceful that some here still have chosen to attack all of that. As a reminder to or as a call back to something I said in a previous meeting, public comment on public officials, public records is not character assassination. Now Monica Rodriguez have said they are pro shutdown. That is very nebulous. So allow me to clarify what that amounts to. It's anti-education, anti-safety, anti-Pacoima. Public comments here and online have shown the community overwhelmingly supports keeping Whiteman. Nearly all opposition to the airport comes from a very small group of anti-airport political groups and opportunists, not concerned citizens. Yesterday, Bobby Arias and Veronica Padilla took part in a Pacoima beautiful press conference, demanding closure of the airport, in open defiance of the tax guidelines and spirit.

They made it clear they want the airport closed. Open-mindedness that ain't. They obviously have already decided their stance despite this panel's guidelines. Mr. Arias, you claim to have been subjected to disdain in vitriol from the airport community in that press conference. When was that? When Ms. Finn Moore encouraged local kids to come on exploration flights, there was no vitriol. As Ms. Alderson invited the neighborhood to the airport, there was no disdain.

The airport community has been hospitable and exceedingly patient throughout this process. Even as it has endured the tax balance problems and endless defamation of the airport by opponents of the airport. I would say that Mr. Arias owes the airport community an apology. The community deserves committee members receptive to and representative of all stakeholders. By demanding the airport be shut down yesterday, Mr. Arias and Ms. Padilla showed an unwillingness to listen to all parts of the community. Mr. Arias and Ms. Padilla, your shutdown demands showed a blatant rejection of open-mindedness. The community can no longer trust you to represent them. Not all of them. I encourage you to do what is right for the community. Now that is to resign. Thank you and have a good evening.

James:

This is James. I just had a few questions I wanted to ask. I'm from the area. I live in Pacoima, and I definitely support all the good works that the airport does. And in any future good that they're going to do. I wanted to ask some questions about the airport and as far as how they work with building and safety, because of the building that they do around the airport, that in my opinion, that created a hazard to one of the pilots that ended up crashing and burning up the cars. He was coming in and his engine had gone out and he was right in the flight landing path of the

airport, where he was supposed to be. But yet he was cut down by the wires that they have up there.

Doesn't anybody tell them that, "Hey, we're putting wires up here. Is it okay?" No, he's right in the flight path of where he's supposed to land. And his engine went out and he had no choice, but to go into the wires. They shouldn't have been there in my opinion. The other thing is the people who are reimagining the airport, give us some ideas about what you're reimagining, because it really confuses me. What are we reimagining? We haven't heard from the community, I'm talking on a phone. Most people know how to use a phone. So it's not any big technology here.

And the other one was a question for Mrs. Maria Jimenez about how the light rail is connected to Whiteman Airport. I don't understand that part. If she could elaborate on that in the next meeting to kind of let us know how they're connected and how they're going to be working together or something. I don't know. I didn't understand that. And why wasn't any of this brought up in the neighborhood councils? I mean, that's what the neighborhood councils are for. Is to bring in the community and to say, "Okay, what are your issues? What are your problems?" And as far as I know, there's never been an agenda with the airport on it. So that's all I have for right now. Thank you.

The Mortons:

Thank you for your time. I just wanted to briefly say, I found myself agreeing with Mr. Arias for a change here on something and that I think we urgently need a legal interpretation of what the obligations are. The county obligations are with regard to the continued operation to be the airport. Obviously a large number of the members of the CAC are on record expressing their opinion that the airport should be closed. And I think these are the people that are driving these meetings. It's right there on the screen, is top consideration closing the airport. Well, as Mr. Arias mentioned, there are deed restrictions involving how the airport was deeded to the county and probably more significantly, there are FAA grant, airport improvement fund grant restrictions on the continued operation of the airport.

I think the committee desperately needs a legal interpretation of what their obligations are in terms of the deed, in terms of these grants. And you can get as many people on this committee, as you want. You can sit and talk for months and years, but if you cannot legally close the airport for 20 years, why are we wasting our time with this? I don't understand why nobody has gotten a legal interpretation from the city attorney or whoever can make this kind of statement about what the obligations are. Mr. Arias suggestion of a congressman or something like that, they're not going to know this information.

You can get your local Congressman here, but he's not going to know what the obligations to the FAA are. I think some city attorney or government attorney representing the county, has to get an interpretation and share that information with the committee. I mean, what could be

more important than knowing if you can legally do what you're proposing to do? So I think that should definitely put on the agenda for a later meeting. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Louis:

Thank you. I just want to thank everybody for allowing me to participate and share my opinions as a resident and homeowner of McCoy, my area. I fully support the exploration into seeing how we can redevelop this land for youth in our community. I want to bring up how, as a community member I see it as a social justice issue. How, for many years and as far as I can remember, maybe, we've been subjected to heavy rail, heavy industrial area, large traffic by diesel and the list goes on and on, from landfills to gravel pits to the airport itself and the noise pollution that it brings day in and day out as somebody who lives and works here in the area and has to endure the noise and the scents or the smells, I should say, and the lights, and just a blight in our neighborhood, in our community.

And I do think that if we organize a little bit better and get a concise message out there to the community, we can raise awareness and present a plan to the people, a plan that everybody can get behind. We've done some great progress in the area, and this is just more progress to come. And what we really want to do is avoid a tragedy, because Maclay Middle School, it's right in the flight path of the airport and the airplanes. So history tends to repeat itself and we've seen it, I've seen it over and over again in my lifetime. It's just a matter of time that the odds of this happening again, these planes are not getting any younger, nor the pilots, but we're just tired of our community being a playground for hobbyists who come from out of town.

And yes, there are jobs there, but let's redevelop the land, let's create more jobs, let's have some green space, some mixed-use areas, and build something that our community can be proud of. There used to be an airport where the swap meet is now in San Fernando. It's no longer there and we're just fine. The county can figure out something and relocate operations. And I like the compromise of having the fire department and the heliport stay there. We can work out a compromise and I'm all for this exploration. Thank you.

Charles:

I'll make it very short, David Kolstad, as our vice president. I am the president of the EAA. We're the one that give the Young Eagle rights and I just want to say that about, my guess is, about 80% of the kids come from the local area and aviation is something that's very misunderstood. We are not rich by any means. We are out there with our airplanes, with a little guilt, and want to give those free rides to the kids. And right now, we're building an airplane. Dave Kolstad is the vice president of our group, and we love aviation and we want to promote it as safely as we can. Go ahead, David. Thank you all for attending tonight. Bye.

Burton:

Hello. Thank you. My name is Burton. I live and work in Arleta, same zip code as Pacoima, so we're neighbors. I'm close to the airport. I've lived in this area of the Valley since in 1976 and I've

appreciated the things that have happened out of Whiteman Airport, especially when disasters strike, there's been a lot of participation to serve the community in emergency situations that have happened out of there, so I appreciated it as an asset in the community, not as a blight or on a eyesore, but rather as a good resource to have.

I appreciate what Rocio Hernandez said, but I'd be interested to know what emergency services are actually staged out of Whiteman Airport during emergency situations or if they're there, located there on a regular basis. One concern that I have is, it seems like a number of high level public officials, both Monica Rodriguez and Congressman Tony Cardena, have both voice seemingly strong opinions only towards closing Whiteman Airport, and that's prior to the results of these CAC meetings. It seems like the public officials have kind of a little lopsided view against this airport, and especially with Congressman Tony Cardenas just giving such a large sum of public money to the commercial enterprise of Van Nuys airport. I would've appreciated if he had waited until the results of this committee had come forth. Thank you.

David:

Okay. Thank you. I'd like to take issue with the idea that this whole issue should be only about Pacoima. Even a common bus stop is a regional place. People aren't going just to the local neighborhood, they're going somewhere else. A train station, an airport, they're not just local places. As Charlie Ducat said it a minute ago, I'm the Young Eagles coordinator, so if people have trouble getting information about what's happening with either the Young Eagles or the build project, I'd be glad to give them the information that I can, but I think it's wrong to confine it only to Pacoima residents. I think we have to look at the whole valley. There are people who come from all over. You can get the information if you just asked for it. And it's quite available.

Last October, I had a young man confront me, not a confrontation in an antagonistic way. He said, "I would like you to know that 10 years ago, when I was 11 years old, you gave me a ride in your airplane. And now, I'm taking flight lessons so that I can have a career as an airline pilot." And that made me feel pretty good. But I shared that information with a friend at church a week or so later, whose son is, 14-year-old son was doubting whether there was any value to being alive. And sharing that with him, I suggested, "Bring him along to this build project and see what happens because maybe it'll capture his fancy." It did capture his fancy. The young man no longer has any of those negative thoughts. We really don't know how much impact we're having on the youth, but I think we're having a much bigger impact than you can ever imagine and closing the airport would be a huge mistake in my book. Thank you.

Tom:

Thank you. I'd like to add to what Mr. Kolstad and Mr. Ducat has said. The airport, through various organizations, offers wonderful educational STEM related activities for the youth of the local area. I feel somewhat frustrated that these items do not seem to be well known to the community advisory group. I would like to actually have, in the written record, a chance to submit a list and contact information for the various groups.

But right now, I'd like to point out we have the Young Eagles flights every fourth Saturday of the month for youth eight to 17 years old. We have the civil air patrol cadet squadron, which has youth leadership and aerospace training. We have Aviation Explorer Post 747. It includes ground school and flight training for teenagers. We have Aviation Explorer Post three, the Kittyhawk Squadron.

Also, ground school and flight training. And flight training is in fact subsidized for youth under both of those situations. We offer the boy scout aviation merit badge. We are building the airplane every Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock in our hangar. We have the San Fernando Valley's 99 Women's Aviation Auxiliary, mentoring girls and so forth. Glendale Community College also has flight instruction in progress at that point.

One of the things I'd like to say is about where the kids come from. We have tried to reach out to Mr. Arias and invite him to a Young Eagles event and to the airplane build so he can see the kids and their parents and so far, we've not able to make contact with him. We wish we could really make these assets better known to the CAC group. Thank you very much for your time.

Juan:

Hi. Thank you for your time, everybody. I just wanted to briefly say I'm a resident and homeowner here in Pacoima and I've been employed at the biggest FBO building there in Pacoima. I'm saddened to hear the back and forth between the negative points and between the positive points. I've been impacted by the airport, but in a positive way. I know Matthew Stone, David Kolstad, I'm familiar with all those faces. I love the airport. I've been here, I went to St. Genevieve and decided very, very early in career that I wanted to make aviation a lifelong passion and that's what I'm going to stick with. And I'm pro the airport being there and hopefully, my son could also learn to fly and hopefully, aviation also gives him opportunities in the future, and I would hate for him to not have that if the airport closes. Thank you for your time and goodnight.

Helen:

Hi, good evening, members of the community advisory committee. Again, my name is Helen and I'm a resident of Pacoima and I live here, probably within 15 minutes away from the airport. And I'm calling tonight to express my full support for the closure of the airport and to encourage the committee to continue re-envisioning alternate uses for the airport. For me, as a resident, it's really a quality of life issue, having so many acres of land dedicated to just one recreational hobby that seems to serve only a few dozen people in LA County.

When we're talking about re-envisioning, there are so many things that we can offer as ideas as community members. There could be housing, mixed use, recreation, businesses, so many commercial uses for that huge plot of land. I really like the idea that was proposed tonight to have at least two community meetings where people can attend in person. It seems that there's been a lot of insinuations tonight and in previous meetings that community members do

support the airport, but I really beg to differ. As someone who lives here myself, I strongly oppose keeping the airport open when we have such a good opportunity now to think about different uses. So thank you so much for your efforts tonight, and I really look forward to having more meetings where it's more accessible to people who are working to attend.

Soila:

Hi, my name is Soila and lived in Pacoima for about 10 years. I'm here with Pacoima Beautiful and also as a concerned citizen of the Valley. Thank you to the CAC for giving us the opportunity to speak. I know you are all working hard to collect all the data and input from the community. I'm speaking today because after seeing the videos of the recent crash, I'm concerned for the safety of my community. The previous accident actually left my mom's friend without a car for several days, and she lost a lot of work days, right? And her main way of transportation.

According to the LA County Department of Public Works, the Whiteman Airport creates 246 jobs and generates 54.6 million in tax revenue. In the 10 years that I lived at Pacoima, I did not see any of that revenue return to my community. Our schools, community programs, and housing are still underfunded. I also heard about the Young Eagles program a lot right now, which I hadn't heard before while I was going to elementary or middle school, so I don't think these programs are very accessible to the low income communities around the airport.

And one of the reasons that my parents decided to move away from Pacoima was because of the noise and smells of gas from the airport. I think our families in Pacoima deserve to raise their children without fearing for the health and the safety of their families and investment in our community should be a priority. I'm demanding that the county immediately support the community in dealing with noise pollution by providing noise canceling windows within a three mile radius and establishing a flight curfew. I also support the closing of the Whiteman Airport. Again, thank you for allowing me to speak today.

Mark:

Thank you, everybody, for taking all your time to do this. I'd like to just make a few comments. Firstly, the Young Eagles program is accessible to every child. It doesn't matter where they're from. So, I'm sorry the previous caller felt like it's not, I'm not sure what she means by that, but those programs are accessible to everybody.

Second point, let's not pretend that re-envision means anything other than closure. Seems to me that there's a bias towards closure. No one's building a park on those 180 acres. They're going to be developing that. I can't think of anything more important than a community airport. Once a community airport leaves, it's gone forever. You can't just move it. You can't just pick up the planes and go somewhere else, find another open 180 acres. They participate in search and rescue, spotting fires, the Young Eagles programs, the Jackpot Program where they're building an actual airplane. I've seen this stuff for myself.

poisoning our community. This airport is poisoning our community. I say this multiple times because for some reason, I feel this is brushed off and forgotten. Let's choose to shut down Whiteman Airport for the health of our community and all the health benefits this land could offer our community. Thank you.

David:

Hi, I'm David, and I'm a youth organizer at Pacoima Beautiful. Starting my whole work with the Whiteman Airport and why I got so passionate about it is because I would listen and actually got to hear the testimonies from our community members as they talked about their experiences with the Whiteman Airport. Community outreach isn't just hopping on this meeting and saying that the Whiteman Airport is good because we offer so many services. It's more about engaging with our community and actually hearing their needs. I work with the youth. I go to all their different high schools and listen to their stories, their successes, their struggles, everything, and not once have I ever heard or seen any programming offered from Whiteman Airport. And it honestly frustrates me a lot knowing that our youth are subjected to this and tokenized by people from the airport that aren't supporting our community. Our youth are special. They're brilliant minds and they're not just numbers, they're people. So I'm here in full support to shut down the Whiteman Airport. Thank you for your time.

Elisa:

Thank you, and I want to thank everyone for taking their time and being part of this. I am against closing Whiteman Airport. They bring so many resources to the community and yes, I feel that it's a two-way street. They should be out here letting us know what they're doing, but we should have done this also a long time ago. Now, everyone's talking about the accident, but no one's really talking about why didn't Metro stop when LAPD called them and ask them. If LAPD is calling you to do something, you should do it. And for Metro not to do it? What if it was a car stuck with a family of five and the train would've crashed it? No one's saying nothing about that.

Now, our Congressman wants to give money to Van Nuys Airport to improve and give more job opportunities. Why not here in Pacoima? Now, people are talking about the smell. I don't know if they know what the fuel of a plane smells or is it the tar company on Paxton in San Fernando, next door to San Fernando Park, that smells like tar every day. I've talked about this many of times. Or is it the mechanics or the tires? What about the company that's right across the street from it that does air freshening? We're not talking about that. How many accidents have there been in San Fernando Road? There's still cars driving by there.

We cannot close this airport. Now, they're talking about green space, there's Robert Jessup Park right next door to it. There's David Gonzalez park right next door to it. We have parks around it. There's Branford Park. There's Ritchie Valenz park. We have parks. It's not correct and I don't think it's fair and it's taking a lot of opportunities away from our youth. We're all talking about

bringing things for our youth and giving them opportunities to have great jobs and great careers. Here they are. When there's an emergency or when a loved one is missing-

Margaret:

Hi, thank you all for being here and letting me speak. I've been in Pacoima my entire life. And I know earlier, that comments were said about how we're taking away things from our children by removing this airport and we are taking things away from them by keeping it. We are keeping them away from a healthy life free of asthma. Pacoima has a 21% childhood rate of asthma, 20% for all adults and families in all of California. That's not the norm. It shouldn't be the norm. We deserve better.

Additionally, Pacoima people deserve a life free from noise pollution, from air pollution, from worrying about whether there are planes that are crashing into their house because it happens so often. It is absolutely incomprehensible that these things happen in Pacoima. We deserve better. Additionally, it was said earlier that the youth programs offered, it's open to everyone, which I'm sure it is, but that doesn't matter if people don't know about it. I've worked with neighborhood councils. I've worked with nonprofits. I've gone to schools in Pacoima. I have never heard of this before. No one's ever come and asked us. And that's the job of the people from the airport to do that because you are a liability to Pacoima. Additionally, I sincerely don't care about your hobbies. I only care about the people of Pacoima and their livelihoods, their health and their sanity. Thank you.

Jose:

Good evening, everyone. My name is Jose. I am a lifelong Pacoima resident and homeowner and I've always lived a few blocks away from the airport and I want to start off by saying, I am completely neutral on the final decision. If the airport goes, honestly, I won't mind. If it stays, I will also not mind. But based off informal sources like polls and comments that I've seen on social media, the airport does have support, and in my personal discussions with people who live in Pacoima and not surrounding communities, but people living in Pacoima, most, so far want it to stay and I'm going to keep asking around.

And as CAC members have said, I agree there should be more meetings for the community and way more outreach. No one knows about these meetings. I'm fairly involved and this is the first CAC meeting that I'm in. So please do some more outreach. And also outreach by the airport to the community, as others have stated, it has been pretty bad. And if it stays, I believe there should be definitely more given to the community. And if it goes and whatever replaces it should be something for the entire community as well.

And one of my questions is, when will there be final action from the county or federal or city council? And that being said, to the members of the CAC, and furthermore, our elected officials, the LA City Council, the county board supervisors, specifically Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl should listen to the constituent's preferences. If the majority want it

to stay or not, then the stance should be based on the community's opinion, regardless of personal feelings toward the matter. So please, listen to the residents and base your stance on that. It's what a public servant should do, not just what one believes is in a community's best interest. So please listen to what the community has to say. Thank you.

Pierre:

Hey, everyone. My name is Pierre, and I am a homeowner and lifelong resident of Pacoima. I echo the need for true community engagement, especially engaging our Spanish speakers in the community because they're often left out of these political and community benefit processes. I definitely am for continuing to engage community and making more of a just effort to engage folks who are often left out of the table. I want to address some of the issues around education, especially for youth. I want to make sure that folks know that besides Whiteman Airport, there are opportunities for folks to be involved in aerospace through North Valley Occupational Center, which is down the way, and there's Van Nuys Airport-

Through North Valley Occupational Center, which is down the way and there's Van Nuys Airport also in San Fernando Valley. So, for us to speak about Whiteman Airport as the only place where folks can be engaged in aerospace, I think is very misleading. Furthermore, I want to address the fact that the FAA rules actually suggest that Whiteman airport is not up to current code and it's actually grandfathered in. So there would be no other airport like Whiteman airport developed during this time in this age. The lead fuel that is utilized at Whiteman Airport is also not such that is used in other spaces and places and airports around the county and around the nation.

Furthermore, I want to make sure that we think about how other development projects such as the Metro transportation development project is taking place that will displace folks and Whiteman airport and the property around it really presents an opportunity for us to create some type of community investment and community impact project that will allow for displaced residents, folks that are business owners, as well as crucial community services, to be placed there in order to make sure that whatever damage is done in the community is actually relieved. Lastly, I want to remind us that we should always put people over profit. Progress over planes, and that we do not need to do better just because we are demanding better, but because we deserve better. Thank you.

Walter:

Fantastic. I want to thank the folks who have voice of your opinions on the matter. I want to make sure to add my voice as well. I am proud to say that I'm from Pacoima. I'm a recent law school graduate, and I'd like to voice my opposition to the airport for several reasons. And I'd like to rebut some of the arguments that I've been made by pro airport folks. First and foremost, the idea that folks on the committee can't voice their opinion against the airport. There's also folks who are pro airport. So that's completely erroneous, I think. Then also somebody mentioned the idea that you have to look at the Valley holistically, but the impact is felt locally.

The impact on that note is not just that related to car accidents, right? People are not related to plane accidents.

People keep on comparing plane accidents to car accidents and how it is that we ought to get rid of cars. If we want to avoid accidents, generally, that's not true because this airport is also polluting our air. And I'd like to acknowledge the fact that on its own website, Whiteman airport says that it averages 318 take off and landings per day, 318. Also according to a 2007 EPA report that identified the different sources of toxic substances in Pacoima, Whiteman airport is the largest identified toxic source emitter in Pacoima. It emits toxins almost 20 times higher for carcinogenicity than the next highest source emitter in the area.

Look, I understand the bottom line. Some people are frustrated and those people are overwhelmingly from the community. I hope that and commend the leaders of our community for voicing their opinion and for standing strong in support of having healthier air and more green space for our folks. Thanks.

Marco:

Hey all, thank you. My name is Marco. I just want to highlight a few things. I'm born and raised in 31 years old. I'm born and raised here my entire life. I heard some comment referencing some school aged children have gone to the airport and it's changed their life and so on. Our community, our children are so much more than that. So much more, I don't know the exact number, but I'm going to throw a random number out so much more than maybe a hundred a year, 10 a year. And so on.

As I was saying, I've grown up and lived here. I've worked here my entire life. I've had the fortune to not just live in the valley in this area, but grow up in the valley, grew up all around. Van Nuys the Northeast, Pacoima, Somar, Canago park and so on. Truthfully, did I know about Whiteman Airport? 100%? Did I ever feel like it was part of my community? No. I always looked at white men and I always thought as it's been referenced before an area location for folks that go that have a hobby oh yeah, it's really cool to see an airplane fly off. You're a little kid and things like that fascinate you. I think it's at a point now where we do more, we talked about promotion. We talked about reaching out again. You know, the airport is a very large land mass and it's visible and you know, it's there, but do you feel like you're connected to it? Do our children feel like they're connected to it? Does our community feel like they're connected to it? I personally don't and I'm going to assume that most majority folks don't as well.

So, I'm here. I'm for re-envisioning it. If that means closure, I'm 100% okay with that. I think it's time to offer our community and to offer our kids a more tangible resource and something better for our community in general. Thanks.

Ernesto:

Yes. Hello. Yes. My name is Ernesto. I'm a lifelong resident and homeowner here. I grew up in Pacoima. My family's been here for a long time and never have we ever known anybody that

said, I took a course there at Whiteman airport, or I learned whatever at Whiteman airport. That's never happened putting out a banner on the fence. That's not community outreach. If that bothers people well, then that's on you. You're in our community. The people in our community need a lot more resources. Decades ago Whiteman airport was one of the proposed sites for Los Angeles Mission College. Did it happen there? No, that would've brought in a lot more jobs. That would've been a greater resource to Pacoima, but it didn't happen.

So, I'm all for re-envisioning of this place. It could be used in many other places, even a park could bring in jobs. That alone would help out our community a lot more than this place. Nobody's saying people that are there cannot have their toys and play and do all that, but they could do that in their community. If, this place was in their community, this wouldn't even be a problem. It wouldn't even be there because a lot of people are used to coming into Pacoima and using us and then leaving at night. That's what this place is, which has a fitting name and all of the other, many of the other institutions in Pacoima and, and the Northeast Valley, they come in the morning, they get what they can and they leave at night and we don't want that anymore. We want to have say in our community and we want the institutions that are there to serve our interest, not anybody else's, but ours. I think we have a complete right to, to say that and feel that and demand that. Thank you.

Yvette:

Good evening, everyone. My name is Yvette, and I am a resident of Arleta, just about two miles from the airport within the airspace of Whiteman Airport. The airport is a health and safety risk for the people living and working in the Northeast San Fernando valley. That is not only have we seen and felt plane crashes, continuously inhaled emissions remain exposed to heat island effect in a rapidly warming climate in one of the most rapidly warming areas in all of LA county. And in times of rain, the runoff from the airport, tarmac contaminates, the water system. As communities and climate change over time, land and uses of the past become incompatible with community needs. It's necessary to have inclusive planning processes where members of the community can come together to develop an updated vision for these numerous acres of land to the caller that said, most people know how to use the phone.

I'd offer that many people in Pacoima. If you're from Pacoima, you know these people. Those most directly impacted work evenings and cannot take time from their job to call at this time, therefore meetings at different hours and on weekends are necessary to have an inclusive community process that prioritizes the needs of those most directly impacted. That is the people of Pacoima. The airport is indeed poisoning our community. I'm really grateful to hear a lot of the voices on the phone and for the work that you all are doing to address this urgent issue. Thank you very much.

Telephone x2690:

So, I'm in full support of the closure of the airport as a member and a resident of the community that lives in Pacoima, less than a mile away from the airport. It's very interesting to hear all

those individuals in support of keeping this airport open have yet to identify themselves as actually living in the actual community. As previous members have stated, callers have stated, they probably do come in play with their airplanes and then go back to their upper-class neighborhoods where, if in reality, they really cared about enjoying this type of hobby, then they should, try to relocate that airport to a community where they live, and it is impacting the community. We have individuals that are suffering from health issues, asthma, air pollution, which is affecting our low-income communities here in Pacoima.

I'm not advocate for defending public officials because I feel like they could defend themselves. Those individuals that are saying that what the interest of Monica Rodriguez and other elector officials have in the support of closing this airport, maybe because they are listening to the community, maybe because the community is reaching out to their offices, saying that they need to take a stand and demand that this airport be closed. For those people that are saying that the airport is doing great in reaching out to the community, I have yet to hear anybody reaching out to any school, Pacoima Elementary is down the street, have you reached out to those kids and said, Hey, come over to the airport.

We're doing something good? No, because they don't care. The reality is that they don't care. Now that it's this proposal about closing this airport. Now, all of a sudden we want to care and we're doing all these great things for the community. Absolutely not. Also, some of these colors have also been downgrading the community about how hard it is for it to call. Well, guess what half of our population here in the Pacoima community are low-income working families that, yeah they have not been engaged in this process and probably lack of information for them.

Juan:

Hi. Well, it's pretty telling that basically every single person that is against the airport is either related, working or former volunteer at Pacoima Beautiful. It's really just one group that's really against it. Ernesto I do commend you for being like the only one. I think that has a valid point against it. Everyone else I think is just reading for off of script that become beautiful and probably Rodriguez's office is, have told them to say, I'm really am for it. I don't know about you guys. I'm kind of old. I'm almost 40, but I remember my immigrant parents who didn't speak English, taking me as a little kid. I have tons of pictures of me in the airport. Where in the last couple generations, the disconnect between the community and the air airport happened, I'm not sure because I was away from Pacoima during those times, but definitely there was a connection here and I'm sure all of you have pictures of you in, in the air shows or in a helicopter at the Whiteman airport.

As far as economic development, look at Camarillo's airport. Look at Santa Monica's airport. Look at Van Nuys. Our own Congressman just gave 700,000 to drive the economy, improve the economy, create more jobs. In Pacoima, that's a bad thing? What's the difference? Five miles from here to Van Nuys. Why is it that it's a economic boom in one area and a disaster in the other. Everyone grab your phones right now. Open up the phone, open up your map and look at

Pacoima. Three out of the four corners of Pacoima is surrounded by freeways. You blame the airport for something that should be blamed for other things. A lot of these points really haven't made as much sense, but I'll stop there. Have a good night.

William:

Hi, this is Bill. I am the president of the Kagel Canyon Civic Association. We're in the unincorporated part of Los Angeles County. We would like to make sure that all the emergency and fire resources that are used at Whiteman are contained, remain there in any re envisioning of the airport for all of the people of the San Fernando Valley, especially the people on the outskirts. Since 2008, we have had two major fires to deal with and the emergency services that have come from the airport have saved us. That's my comment.

Victoria:

My name is Victoria. I'm from San Fernando and honestly, I'm a little shocked by something I heard earlier. Is it true that two members of the CAC participated in a rally to close down Whiteman Airport after they were appointed to the CAC? I don't understand that because every meeting we hear about the guiding principles that say all participants are to approach issues with the open mind. So it's really important information that I would like to know by the next meeting. I have so many ideas, but I'm just going to talk about the process briefly. First, I want to commend a couple of the members of the CAC. I want to commend the youth to members because I think their participation is important and I've been really impressed by them. Their comments have been thoughtful, informative, and have forced us to think about important issues, but to everyone else in charge, I'm wondering who thought it was appropriate.

To appoint people affiliated with Pacoima Beautiful to the CAC. The youth members always identify themselves as a youth component of Pacoima Beautiful. We have the executive director and they're supposed to be able, we're asking to give their opinion is wonderful as they're doing while the executive director has made her opinion. So strong and clear is that fair to ask teenagers that of teenagers for organization they volunteer for. Okay. Sorry. I have two minutes. My ideas first.

Yes, the community is asking for information safety information. We don't know what's true incidents, accidents. Can we get some safety information about the airport? Can we get just for transparency who appointed who? Low hanging fruit, anyone who needs mental health services, the county should be out there giving that to them hours of operation. Let's look into that so that if we need to alter those for the community, we do that the pilots have shared ways to decrease noise. I have this great story about the Tuskegee airman that I wanted to share and how we can incorporate into the airport. But I guess I'm going to have to do it at a public meeting because we have two minutes, and we can have food trucks and vendors at the airport. We can do so much stuff with an airport.

Sachi:

Hi. My name is Sachi, and I'm a student at UCLA. For the past four months I've been conducting research on a history of Pacoima and Whiteman Airport. What I found is that every single plane that takes off and lands at Whiteman Airport, even if it doesn't crash, poses a significant threat to community members, health and wellbeing. Recreational airplane emissions, like those used in the planes at Whiteman airport are the number one source of airborne lead emission contributing to health issues such as kidney damage, brain damage, pregnancy concerns, and even premature death. Lead has banned all fuel in the U.S. Except for the gas that is used in recreational planes. According to the EPA, there is no acceptable or safe amount of lead for humans. At Santa Monica Airport, a similarly sized recreational airport, which is set to be closed down in 2028 due to the intensity of toxic emissions noise and impact on the health of nearby residents.

They found that in their studies that every takeoff injected significant amounts of dangerous toxins into the air and that this was particularly dangerous because there was not a large enough buffer zone between the residences and businesses in Santa Monica and between the airport. This zoning practice came from a history of poor zoning practices and a lack of information about the importance of such buffer zones. And the same is true in Pacoima, which is subject to racist zoning and planning, which allowed a dangerous land use like Whiteman airport to be built in the middle of a bunch of houses and businesses in the community in the first place. We can't change this unfortunate history, but we can shut down the airport and remove the harm that it imposes on the community every day. Thank you.

Wendy:

Hello, good evening. My name is Wendy, and I am proudly here with Pacoima Beautiful. I have lived in Pacoima my entire life, very close to Whiteman, and I am in full support of the closure. The airport, as it stands, is an act of violence in the form of environmental injustice. Thank you for your time.

Fanny:

I am 1.4 miles from Whiteman Airport. I have been in this area, my home since 1974. I have not noticed any pollution. I have not noticed any noise other than the helicopters from LAPD. I'm kind of on the fence about it. Let's just look at it differently and let us look at it. Another way. Also, as far as the green space is concerned, we have Roger Jessup Park. That facility has not had running water in I don't know how long, and we brought it to the neighborhood council and I think our Councilman knows about it. I don't know about that. I don't know why it's still there. It's a beautiful park, but no facilities. Like I said, I've been here since 1974 on the hill, one point of miles from Whiteman Airport. I'm on the fence about it. I hope that last decisions will be made about it. Thank you for your time.

Victoria:

Hello. My name is Victoria . I live in Pacoima. I've lived here all of my 16 years of life. I am in favor of closing the airport. I'm just here to share my experience. I can't say that the airport has done anything beneficial to me other than contaminate the air that I breathe and pose a significant safety risk to myself, to my family and to the thousands of residents of Pacoima. I think that the land, the airport takes up could be used for various more community oriented things.

I'm just here to express my frustration as a youth in this community. More often than not, our voices are overlooked or not taken seriously. To be quite honest, I feel no connection to the airport whatsoever. In fact, I feel that it does more harm to me than any quote unquote benefit it could provide. Just on an ending note, my affiliation with any organization or any group in this community does not make my experience is any less invalid or my reasons any less important. That is my truth. I am confident that there are others in my community who would sympathize with my statement. That is all for today. Thank You.

Felipe:

Hi, I'm Felipe Pacoima Beautiful. I'm here because I support the shutting down of the airports. The reason I support it is because it's about breaking down structural racism. We don't have an airport in Northridge. We don't have an airport in Buena Hills or West Hills. We do have it here in Pacoima, that's no accidents. It was done on purpose and in a certain community. I think now we have the opportunity to do something right for the community.

Just last week, I was talking to this mother and she was telling me how it's been difficult for a kid, especially during social learning, her kids trying to do homework. It was really hard for a kid to focus because airplanes land every 10 to 15 minutes. Imagine I know the pilots talk about the benefits of the kids, but I think we think about the kids are living near airport. They're trying to learn. They're trying to be better and how it's really hard to learn even for us. We are in Zoom right now, and I don't hear any noise on your mics. Just imagine trying to speak and just not being able to speak because there's an airplane over you. I think we need to think about how we improve the community and how by on we have an opportunity to do something good for the community.

Teo:

Hi everyone. My name is Teo. I'm a community organizer with Pacoima Beautiful and a resident who grew up in Pacoima. First, please don't forget that our representatives speak up for residential concerns and I support the investigations. I would also rather prefer to see more investments like the LAPD cadets, which will help cultivate achievable opportunities instead of flying youth for a 20-minute joy ride. Instead, we have a neighborhood council president blaming their community for lack of outreach, to a toxic industry who wears make America great. Again here, that's a disgrace of representation. The reality of white men airport in Pacoima is that it has not served the community since the moment its founding owner, Marvin

Whiteman placed the burden of the aviation practices in the heart of Pacoima in 1946. Considering the current climate of racial injustice and white supremacy. The name of the airport is an absolute insult.

It literally serves as a reminder that the airport is not for our community. These aviation supporters continue to normalize the horrible loud flights and trainings coming out of the airport. 24/7. I get waking up at 12:00 AM. This is how much of an effect these airport has on our community. Pacoima should not be normalized as a training playground. The health impacts of lead-based fuel falling on Whiteman from aircraft above our homes is so real. We demand for a flight curfew, noise canceling windows and the shutdown of Whiteman airport. And that's from a community resident who grew up in Pacoima and for all the voices of Pacoima. Thank you.

Paul:

I've lived here since 1987 to work at Lockheed in Burbank. I live in Lakeview Terrace and there are so many benefits for the uninitiated that are not involved with the aviation. You know, we talk about the joy ride, but when you take up a 12-year-old kid and that's what he wants to be an airline pilot, that's where it starts at the young Eagles program. They've flown over 2 million kids without incident per say. A lot of them become the very pilot that takes you to go see your grandmother in another country. The other gentleman that was pro for talked about Van Nuys and Santa Monica. The infrastructure there is just incredible. There's just so much that the uninitiated don't know and the joy right thing, kids start out and that's what makes them want to be pilots.

The, the whole we have the aviation arm there with the, as the gentleman from cable canyon said, we have a lot of the tankers that go out and, and, and put out for forest fires in the lake forest that are based there. There's just a lot of pros that the uninitiated need to know about. The whole lead and carbon monoxide thing is a little overrated. Yes, it's not a positive, but it's not, I think taking anyone out daily. It's been a long day, but been a pilot since I was 16. And there's just too many benefits of that. I mean, look at the civil air patrol, which lost a guy and these people go out and find people that are lost in the mountains and what have you. There's a reason why it's been there since 1946 and people move near it and then complain, same thing like Long Beach. Thank you for hearing me.