

**Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport Community Advisory Committee Meeting #12:
Public Comments, August 22, 2022**

Matthew:

Good evening, everyone. Matthew, local pilot, who's been around Whiteman forever. I want to start off by saying the points brought up at the last meeting were good, but the execution was off. One CAC member I spoke to likened it to bingo night, and I have to agree. The CAC members should be selecting their preferences and all that before they arrive that way we can get onto business in a quick manner. Moving on to the comments we heard that night, I want to highlight two topics, noise pollution, and lead pollution. There was a lot of talk about noise pollution from the airport at the last meeting, but I couldn't hear it too well because of all the loud noise from the cars and trucks on Van Nuys, Boulevard. When we had aircraft fly over the meeting, they were nearly silent. The irony of this was not lost on myself and others in the crowd who I watched, we were paying attention to that, and we thought it was somewhat amusing to say the least. As far as lead pollution goes, that was raised by several people from Pacoima Beautiful, who blamed only Whiteman for it.

And now to her credit, another commenter, Ms. Victoria Padilla mentioned this and queried the matter of lead paint and housing. I'd like to point out that the day after the July meeting, Pacoima Beautiful advertised a local program regarding free lead paint removal in local houses. Now, if Pacoima Beautiful is acknowledging these numerous other local sources of lead pollution, placing blame exclusively on the airport is obviously unscientific. And I would argue politically motivated.

Moving beyond that onto the topic of self-reflection, at the airport I think there's many people who have reflected on the recent events of the last decade or so. And they're certainly wishing that we had had the safety improvements that were proposed in 2011, 2012, that era. The problem is that the safety improvements that were put onto the table by the county as a variety of options, including one that would've had buffer zones, which would've included the area where the civil air patrol mishap came in. That was something that really we would've liked to have those safety improvements, but Pacoima Beautiful opposed those. And so there is self-reflection and Pacoima Beautiful fits into that. I wish they would get behind safety improvements rather than stay. (Cut off due to technical issues)

Eve:

Hi, good evening. My name is Eve. I am an attorney that works with families in crisis. I'm also a pilot. I'm also very involved in the community, particularly with women and women in aviation. And so I have a perspective that is perhaps a little bit more broad. There were a couple comments tonight, and it's a little distressing because I'm hearing some action cries. People want an action item, and I haven't yet heard any specifics. So I would suggest the following. Pilot without having a noise study, you don't know which aircraft are making noise or would violate some sort of a noise ordinance. So it seems prudent that the first step would be to get the study completed expeditiously, to understand what aircraft are making noise and at what hours of the night. And I know this may not be agreeable to some community members, but pilots, we are very responsible neighbors, very responsible. We are taught, when we have a problem with our aircraft, we aim for least dense populated areas. That's why you see these pilots landing on freeways, landing off in the ocean. We are trained, number one in mind, safety, you don't harm other people, you do what you can to protect those around you, and that includes our environment.

So my suggestion would be when you have that study, if there are a handful of planes, five planes that account for 80% of the night departures, there's some pilots in this group, we're great people to talk to go, talk to those pilots and say, "Hey, there are some complaints by the residents. Will you help us be a good neighbor and agree not to depart, whenever practical, after certain hours?" The other aspect is some understanding and perhaps education by the community. Anybody who flies commercial aviation, you fly United or American, where do you think they get their pilots from? They don't let you just go fly a 737, you have to fly small airplanes and you don't want your 737 captain never having logged night hours. You need pilots understanding how to fly at night, it is a different phenomenon. And so if the community perhaps has a little bit of education about the critical role, we all know there's a pilot shortage, these are critical aspects of what needs to happen with pilot training, with some communication and just us being human beings and people, I think we can actually get started on some of these items now. Thank you.

Ruben:

Hi, my name is Ruben. I'm a member of the Pacoima Neighborhood Council, and a lifelong member, resident of Pacoima, and from my house, I can throw a rock at Whiteman Airport. Here's the problem, the noise, we need to factor in the Metrolink and the Union Pacific train at night, that comes every day on clockwork at 1:00 AM, that is louder than any plane. Now, as for any flying objects that make noise out of Whiteman Airport, the loudest is those fire rescue ambulances that are coming out of the LA County Fire Station, that need to deploy at any hour of the night. So, if your family member's injured or in a car accident, they need to respond to go rescue them, those are louder than any plane. Now, as for contamination, I haven't heard anyone speak of any of the businesses on Pier Street, right across from the San Fernando Gardens, that could potentially be the cause of any contamination, but of course, Pacoima Beautiful has not done an environmental impact on that. The beautification of the airport, you know what, it was nice, but like everything else, we have to ration water and it doesn't look really good right now, but neither does my front yard. We need to worry about other things in the community that Pacoima Beautiful can focus on, like the LT Gray building that's been abandoned for years, or the location at Telfair and Van Nuys, the vacant lot, let's worry about that. And if we're concerned about safety, the I-5 between Sheldon and the 118 has more fatalities per year than this airport has had in the last five years. And if you can't tell me what you're going to put in place at this airport, then we're spinning our wheels. And if we do replace it, mind you, what will come next, is that county fire station, because those helicopters are loud and whatever you put there will not be able to tolerate the noise and the businesses on Pierce will disappear as well, because you can't have that in the middle of whatever they're trying to put there. So, I think Veronica Padilla and Pacoima Beautiful should really focus on making Pacoima beautiful and not worried about an airport, because the rest of the city that I live in is a mess, and we need a focus on cleaning the mess up in the community and not worrying about an airport that has dried grass on it. Because that airport has been friendly to the community, I got my first plane ride as a kid at Whiteman Airport, I met a lot of movie stars when they filmed at Whiteman Airport, as a kid. It has been community friendly, so I think we need to focus on other issues in Pacoima. Thank you.

Roberto:

Roberto, I am the program director for the initiating change in our neighborhoods, ICON CDC. I want to applaud Veronica, and Pacoima Beautiful for being so brave and being so invested and committed to this community, for stepping up and speaking truth to power. And she has taken way too much noise and ridicule from individuals in this community that want nothing but to preserve the status quo. LA County has created a process to mobilize aviation interest to maintain this status quo. This is not a true re-envisioning process, it's a bureaucratic driven effort at stifling community outrage and organizing a white majority presence to maintain 600 privately owned airplanes. LA County management staff are being disingenuous and dishonest and using the process to shut up CAC members and ignore the community. LA County positioned that not to proceed with short-term mitigations, arbitrary and insensitive, and to not have a thorough discussion regarding long-term potential, not including renderings, not including talking about what could happen, like the last speaker just spoke to. And including a real re-envisioning of alternative uses of the airport, is a blatant attempt at not allowing a true discussion, a true consideration of closure to be on the table. Why has it been possible to close Santa Monica Airport, an airport that was donated by the US government to Santa Monica decades ago, whereas Whiteman was purchased privately by the county, why was it possible to close that airport and not pursue closure at Whiteman? Frankly many would say it comes down to race, it comes down to economics. As the director of ICON CDC, a Pacoima-based organization, focused on small business development and entrepreneurship, we are mobilizing to support Veronica and Pacoima Beautiful vision for true consideration, true re envisioning, and development of alternatives, to close this blight and burden upon a majority of low-income Brown community. Thank you.

At this point in the meeting, the CAC agreed to limit speaking time from 3 minutes per person to 2 minutes per person.

Michael:

Thank you. My name is Michael, I'll be reading a statement from Ron. The relevance of the Whiteman Re-envisioning CAC, and the obvious amount of employed energy to solicit and popularize input regarding changing the presence of Whiteman Airport, as the name re-envisioning seems to imply, proves a very real importance of this endeavor. The perceived importance of the CAC is exemplified in visual form via the CAC's very well produced website and regularly held and publicized meetings. As such, I offer there is considerable demand in the interest of honesty and full disclosure, that those now in position to advise LA County officials, sit under the veil of expert opinion and could affect legislative action. In the interest of both honesty and full disclosure, these participants should voluntarily disclose any and all of their real estate holdings or those of their families or their related business interests, that could fiscally affect by a Whiteman Airport closure.

There is a direct motivation that anyone declining to accept that responsibility should be identified and should exit the panel, otherwise just how is the public to be fully informed with regard to the entire veracity of any opinions offered? And the weight of that should be applied by LA County officials when considering their relevance. There exists regulation that requires certain government officials and employees to file form 700, also as statements of economic interest. As this panel's members have not been asked to make such disclosure and may or may not be legally required, voluntarily disclosing any fiscal bias that might motivate their CAC participation with full public interest in mind, would hopefully be in good faith, not objectionable. With the public interest in mind and demand considered, I request

this issue be agendized. Robert Bernstein, CFII and director webmaster of scauwg.org, the Southern California Airspace Users Working Group. Thank you.

Burton:

Hi, I'm Burton. I'm live up the street, on Osborne Street in Arleta. Since the beginning of this CAC meeting process, a lot of the public comment space has been polarized into some narrow statements of just keep it open or just shut it down. I want to offer a suggestion that gives a little more detail, on my suggestion, at least, regarding space in the community area, with a small space perhaps for a set up like a small type of aviation museum. Over the last few months, I've been around in a few areas and I've seen a number of displays that were small, but they were very much of interest to myself, and they showed older photos and articles that date back to, or artifacts and stuff, that date back to the early days of the area, and then showing the development of the community around, over a period of time. Particularly how this, and I'm suggesting particularly like how this airport, Whiteman, in other areas, other area airports, say like Van Nuys or something, have contributed to the economic and business and population development of this part of the San Fernando Valley. I think that this kind of showcase should be a long-term plan for Whiteman Airport space, after the priority items that have first been addressed. Thank you.

David:

Hello, good evening, everybody. I just wanted to say thank you to everybody on the CAC for being here through all of these meetings, we appreciate your time. And I would just like to say that, I'd like to elevate Ms. Maria Chong-Castillo's comments, as well as Veronica Padilla's comments tonight, in the direction of the decisions that have been made to the improvements of the airport. I think that it is really important that the airport and Public Works is making an acknowledgement for some of these items that are going to be moved forward. And I really hope that those changes are physically seen in the community.

I myself lived on Sutter Street, which is actually the runway for the airport, for about 17 years, and it really never impacted my life in terms of its outreach, really just the annual events that they had. I really appreciate that there's now consideration for other community programs. In reality, my perspective is for closure of the airport, so again, I'd like to thank Ms. Maria Chong-Castillo for not beating around the bush and just stating that's what we're really here for. The last item that I'd like to state is that I haven't noticed you guys have mentioned the name, I do think that it's a racist note to make, so if you guys could please take that into consideration, changing the name in its future, I'm sure a lot of community members would appreciate it as well. Thanks.

Liz:

Hi, my name's Liz, and I'm a graduate student in the environmental health program at UCLA. As you know, the airport creates additional noise and air pollution and has created fear in those nearest to the airport. Environmental studies are needed to test lead air pollution and noise impacts of the airport, so I'm very grateful that some of those are underway. I also want to mention to those who said that we can't pinpoint that pollution to the airport, that when these studies are done, they do look at other factors and take those into consideration. If you look at other airport studies, they've actually found impacts in some of those areas, like lead and noise pollution. It's also important that this committee looks at those documents when those reports are done and considers the health of people and the

people closest to the airport.

If you look at the US census job numbers, the airport actually creates less than 3% of the jobs, but if you look at how much space it takes up in Pacoima, it's actually a lot. There are no planes registered with the Pacoima zip code in the FAA's registry, so that's another point that I want to bring up, the community deserves to know who owns these airports that are polluting their environment and gaining the economic impacts, I mean, benefits from them. Thank you.

James (x1264):

Hi, this is James. I wanted to talk about, we need to implement the safety improvements for the airport, that Pacoima Beautiful rejected, I don't know why, we should make those public to the whole community. And I also like to address the closing of the airport, supposedly they don't want it running 24 hours. Well, in that neighborhood, you have to have it running 24 hours because otherwise they would rip everything out of there, they would steal everything. And that is the truth, that is the truth. We have a huge theft of copper wire, we have a huge theft of catalytic converters, which help our air, by the way. And also if you do end up closing it, I think they should close Van Nuys too, because Van Nuys omits most of the pollution, they have jets that fly out of there and I'm sure, well, a lot of the noise comes from Van Nuys Airport than Whiteman Airport, because like Ruben said, that most of the noise does come from the first responders, and we accept that noise because of the safety they provide us. And I also like to say that with training that these pilots have, I recently saw one of the planes that landed on the 91 freeway, that guy was calm, he did a great job in landing that plane on the freeway without any fatalities at all, a little damage to a vehicle, but that was it. And I'd like the airport to improve, and make it better for the community, I think it's a vital resource. Thank you.

Alex:

My name's Alex. I was a long-time resident of Pacoima in San Fernando. I actually grew up in San Fernando, I was in civil air patrol as a young kid, my teens, my early teens and my wife, actually her family, since 1954, were residents of the San Fernando Gardens. And the Whiteman Airport is a community benefit, the things I heard during the meeting, I think were wonderful, of improving the Whiteman Airport, of getting the windows to help for the noise. But I think to close it down, would we would lose a great benefit because one of the things, I recently was speaking to someone from the aviation industry, African American of an association, he said, one of the problems we have is it's hard for us to get the Latinos and the African Americans interested in aviation. So, the moment you lose this, you lose that opportunity to create that opportunity for our Latino youth, that could have a great, and African American youth of the community, to look at aviation as a great opportunity. Because as we do know, we've lost a lot of pilots and we need pilots. And so, it's really, really important to keep Whiteman Airport open, but to make it more community friendly, to make sure that it's more engaged. But also know this, civil air patrol is volunteer, a lot of these programs they have, they're volunteers. These individuals do not receive grants or benefits. If they partner with community organizations and help fund it, then they can be more beneficial even to the youth, because I can tell you right now, I manage a youth center, youth are not going to go from here for aviation at Van Nuys Airport. That would be too far for them, especially during school. Thank you.

Jennifer:

Hi. I wanted to first add to what somebody else was just saying, I don't understand how that man's racist comments were allowed to just go unmarked or anything, so that's unacceptable. But I lived in the Northeast San Fernando Valley since I was 11. I remember going to meetings when I was, I think like 14, about the same issues that we've been talking about. Our community has been fed up with this. I see there's some people that are supporting it, and I can understand that there may be some benefits to having an airport, but those benefits are not to us. If they benefit the rich people, then it should go to the rich people. There's no reason for it to be here.

First of all, the pollution that it causes, the pollution of Pacoima is one of the highest in California, and it doesn't make sense that we would have something like this here. And like somebody else mentioned, it takes up a considerable amount of space here. If they think it's so valuable, then move it somewhere else, but we can't afford to wait another 10 years for this thing to disappear. And I understand there are some things that could help, like maybe not working and not being active at night, but I think the main thing that we should be focusing on is the steps to start removing it and moving it somewhere else. If all these pilot, whatever, if they think it's so important, then maybe they should have it in their own communities, because it doesn't benefit anybody here. Not only does it not benefit Pacoima, it doesn't benefit the Northeast San Fernando Valley, it just continues to screw us over. And the longer that we keep trying to have these dumb talks, nothing's going to change.

Sofia:

Mi nombre es **Sofía** tengo viviendo en Pacoima 35 años. Tengo un hijo de 29, el impacto del aeropuerto a él es que desde la primaria vive en estrés. Cada vez que vuela un avión cerca de la casa el cree que va a caer en la casa Por otro lado la contaminación del Diesel nos afecta. Mis nietos también están traumatados. El aeropuerto no nos trae ningún beneficio. No me interesa que me continúen enviando invitaciones a estas juntas, lo que me interesa es que cierren el aeropuerto.

My name is Sofia I have been living in Pacoima for the last 35 years. I have a 29-year-old son. The impact to him from the airport is that since he was in elementary school, he gets stressed out whenever a plane flies close to our house. He feels the plane will fall on our house. Now my grandchildren go through similar problems. I am speaking on their behalf. Close the airport and stop sending me invitations to these meetings.

María:

Soy voluntaria de Pacoima Beautiful. Tengo 25 años de vivir en esta comunidad. Mi problema es el ruido de los aviones no me dejan dormir toda la noche. También es la contaminación. Tengo cáncer en el riñón. Quitar el aeropuerto es un problema para toda la comunidad. Es injusto que la gente de dinero viene a Pacoima y no es justo que no sufran lo que sufrimos nosotros. Cierren el aeropuerto.

María:

I am a Pacoima Beautiful volunteer. I have been living in Pacoima for the last 25 years. My problem is noise caused by planes they don't allow me to sleep all night. I have a problem also with pollution as I have kidney cancer. Close the airport; it is a problem for the entire community. It is unfair that people with money come to Pacoima but don't to have to go through the things I have to go through. Close the airport.

Benito:

Yo soy miembro de Pacoima Beautiful tengo poco tiempo vivir aquí. Sin embargo, me esta afectando el ruido que me pone muy nervioso. No veo ningún beneficio tener el aeropuerto. Cierren este aeropuerto y dediquen el lugar a algo de beneficio como una escuela.

Benito:

I am a Pacoima Beautiful member. I have moved recently. However, the airport is impacting my health because of noise. It gets me nervous. I see no benefit from the airport. Close the airport and use the land for something like a school.

Felipe:

I'm also going to comment now. So everybody can still go, I'll make it brief. I just wanted to say the Whiteman Airport is a direct threat to the safety and the health of the community. The safety, just all this plane crashes. And just the health. We have noise pollution. It's really hard to concentrate. Lead pollution. It's not a good place. It shouldn't be here in Pacoima. It shouldn't be next to homes so close. From the apartment right across the street, you can see the airplanes 24/7.

So we should just shut it down and move the place somewhere else, where there's space. Maybe next to where the pilots live. But not in Pacoima. In Pacoima, we need parks. We need places for use. We need things that benefit the community, and the airport doesn't do that. We need to shut down the airport and move it somewhere else. Thank you for the time.

Pierre:

Hey, everybody. My name's Pierre, a long-time, lifelong resident of Pacoima, as well as the co-founder and executive director of a local youth serving org by the name of the Great One Eighters. I'm here today to stand with my fellow Pacoima leaders, calling for radical inclusion, not only in this process, but in the outcomes therein.

I want to highlight that equity is a process, and it is also an outcome. We're not just going through this process here in a vacuum. This call for change is coming at the heels of changes that are being requested across the board. So, we really have to dial down on this equity piece, when we think about how we're doing this process and what we're thinking we want out of it.

I really want to just highlight the fact that we need to move on the things that are tangible right at this moment. We need to implement these short-term solutions that will help mitigate some of these long-term issues and challenges I've been contending with as a child, and my fellow neighbors have as well. From the noise pollution that could be resolved by using public funds to double pane windows, such has been done in Westchester, which is an affluent community, to immediately stopping the operation of Whiteman 24/7.

Many of those proposals that I heard today are things that could technically happen at this moment. Even if there is an emergency protocol that needs to be put in place, it sounds like that's feasible. We need to go with these short-term solutions that will lead to more longer-term outcomes.

Lastly, we must, in this space of radical inclusion and this desire for radical inclusion, convene these CAC meetings in the open and in person and ensure that they're grounded in a participatory process. Not in one where we're just simply informing and consulting, but where we're actually empowering our local community to not only voice what they want, but also be part of these actions. Thank you very much.

Craig:

Hi, thank you. My name's Craig. I've been living in the East Valley since the mid nineties. I've been a pilot for 30 years. I learned to fly at Whiteman Airport. I'm also a flight instructor. I've taught at Whiteman Airport.

I just wanted to register my voice in support of keeping the airport open. I do have an airplane at the airport. I just want to mention that there's so many more high paying jobs at this airport. I pay my mechanic. He charges \$100 an hour, and I'm happy to pay him. There's many other mechanics at the airport, aircraft avionics technicians, airport administration, county workers.

If you look at the average salaries paid to workers and people employed by Whiteman Airport, it's far, far higher than I think what the average salaries are across the community. I think the job training and for mechanics and for flight training, there's a lot of flight training that goes on.

If you really look at the value of the training and the jobs and the opportunities that the airport provides, it's very significant. And the idea that you would plow this asset under and put in another strip mall where people are simply going to get minimum wage jobs at Starbucks or Subway or whatever, it just seems ridiculous to waste an asset like that.

The people advocating, really pushing this closure, community redevelopment, developers. It's all developers that want to make money turning this big piece of land into something else. And I just want to say that you are really being shortsighted if you throw away this asset to the community and replace it with something far less valuable. Thanks.

Alejandra:

Hi, good evening. My name is Alejandra, and I'm here with Pacoima Beautiful. I grew up in the Northeast Valley playing sports within contaminated conditions with my family, friends and neighbors. I'm also Director of Policy and Advocacy for Chispa, organizing program of the league of conservation voters. And I'm here standing with my fellow colleagues to urge for the immediate shutdown of Whiteman Airport. And we know anecdotally, and we know through research, that it is low-income communities of color that have had to carry the burden that comes with the continued operation of Whiteman Airport. If we take a look at the racial and economic background of the folks who are pushing for the shutdown of this airport, we will see that it is those communities who continue to be disproportionately impacted by pollution and economic burdens.

We know that asthma rates, as research has shown over and over again, in the Northeast San Fernando Valley or among the Heights in the county. And we can always say, "Oh, well, that's the same thing in Van Nuys." Yeah, then we should also be analyzing what's contributing to the ongoing pollution of our communities over and over again. And Whiteman Airport is a source of pollution for our folks.

None of that is accidental. We know that our community has carried the health burden of housing this airport for many years, and flying planes for fun at the expense of our health and wellbeing is unjust. And it further intentions existing disparities and inequities that we have had to carry for so many years as someone else mentioned.

Furthermore, the airport's name, Whiteman is daily reminder for people like me, Latinx, Latino communities, black communities in this area of the valley that this airport is not for us. We can start with commissioning an environmental impact report by an independent research group as someone else mentioned. Try to see that short term, what we can do in the short-term strategy. But ultimately, we have to shut down the Whiteman Airport, and that's in order to achieve racial and climate justice for

communities of color in the Northeast San Fernando Valley, and in Pacoima. Otherwise, we continue to exacerbate those disparities. Thank you.

Jim:

Good evening, everyone. I'm Jim. I'm in Civil Air Patrol. I'm also in the EEAA Young Eagles program. I just wanted to, once again, invite the members of the CAC to come out to the airport. This Saturday, we have both a civil air patrol conducting a search and rescue exercise, and the Young Eagles are going to be flying starting at 10:00 AM.

We have, I believe, 80 young people the last time I heard, which was about a week ago, 80 young people who were signed up of which I believe 60 are from the Pacoima neighborhood. It's part of our outreach that everybody has asked for, to bring opportunities from the airport to the community. Those young people will get their first airplane flight to see the joy of flying and to maybe get them to think about aviation as a career field.

I would love to have the members of the CAC come out so we can show them around, and show them the things we do, and show them the airport. There's a number of things that people don't seem to know about that are here, like a viewing area. It exists and it has for as long as the airport's been open. They can see it. They can see how it easily accessed it is. You don't go through any gates. You don't have to pass any security guards.

You can come up, park in the parking lot, it's free to park, and come over to a picnic area that has grass and picnic tables. And at any time, sit and watch the airplanes and see what's going on. So again, I'd like to invite all of the CAC to come and take a look at what's going on, and see the good things that we're trying to do to support the community, to get young people involved, and to let them see the opportunities that can have to get into a high paying career in aviation. Thank you.

Ingrid:

Hi. My name is Ingrid. I live in Pacoima, off of Osborne as well. And I am here with Pacoima Beautiful. I am also calling on county supervisors to shut down the Whiteman Airport based on what everyone else has been mentioning. Climate, it's toxic to the communities of color in the area.

And also, I wanted to mention that it is very shameful that a lot of racist comments have been allowed during this conversation. And also, we can relocate the airport to where these pilots live, to their communities. Thank you.

Angel:

Hi, my name's Angel. I've been a resident of Pacoima since 2006. Right now, I just graduated from UC Davis with a major in science and engineering. So, I know a little bit about the aspects of flying and what has to do with it.

I have a couple questions that I don't think have been asked necessarily. Why are the airports here? Who is this benefiting? Ultimately, I've never met anyone from the San Fernando Valley who actually uses these airports. One thing to note is that these airport hangers cost around \$17,000 a year to afford, and that's just the space. The airplanes cost are from up upwards of \$15,000. So there's no resident in the Pacoima area who's able to afford these. I really don't understand why this airport's here.

I also don't understand why these people from these flying programs, I don't understand why they also have been mentioning that this is a great benefit when it's only 60 students out of thousands and

thousands of kids in the valley who are probably going to have health problems because of the flying. I don't understand how these programs outweigh our health.

And if they're so adamant about using these flying programs, there's also pilot simulations that can be used. I don't understand why the FAA investigation that has been pending hasn't been started. And just to note, right now, I live in the county of Davis, and the closest airport to us is a college airport, and that airport is one and a half miles away from the closest person living there. And there have been very little crashes.

I don't understand why the Whiteman Airport is using the Pacoima area as a crash landing site for them. That's my main concern. We should not be guinea pigs for all this air pollution, this noise pollution. I really think the presence of Pacoima should be compensated for all their health risks that they have been exposed to over the years. Thank you.

Jacqueline:

Hi, my name is Jacqueline. I am here with Pacoima Beautiful as well. I have lived in Pacoima my whole entire life. And I'd say that my biggest issue with the Whiteman Airport ... Oh, I also demand that the airport should be shut down. My biggest issue is that there are a lot of children that are sensitive to the noise. We live with autistic children, and they cannot handle that noise.

They cannot handle the noise that is always coming from the Whiteman Airport. And it's already difficult for them to sleep, so then having that extra noise at night, it doesn't help at all. And then, also adding the plane crash. I was going home from Target when one of the planes had crashed right on the train tracks, right before the train had came. And that incident was also a scary moment, and I believe that, that shouldn't happen. And no resident, no person should have to be in fear just trying to drive home. So that is why that I believe that the Whiteman Airport should be shut down.

Brenda:

Hi, my name is Brenda. I live in Pacoima and I'm here with Pacoima Beautiful. I'm here calling on the county supervisors to shut down Whiteman Airport. I know that air quality has been mentioned earlier, but as someone who lives in section 6037104810, the Cal environ on screen 4.0 tool map shows how heavily polluted in general Pacoima and its neighbors are, which the airport doesn't help.

We've had different sources of pollutions, such as the methane leakage from the power plant on Sheldon. Not that far from here. We've had recent incidents from the airport that directly impacted our neighbors. And I'm sure people who are listening know about this incident. Of course, I am aware that people within the community are not always knowledgeable of certain environmental concerns.

However, the group who is aware wishes for the elimination of the environmental racism and classism. I'm currently 26 weeks pregnant, and I hope to make a difference within the community and show my child that such injustices will not be tolerated. These are not normal circumstances that other kids are raised with. I wish to participate in this specific step towards a healthier environment for our home.

To conclude, it is visually evident that Pacoima and its surrounding communities have heavy industrial sources that do not help and contribute to our pollution status. We are done carrying the health burden of a facility that does not benefit us. Even if it benefits aviation, it does not benefit the community surrounding the airport. We demand a LA County and the FAA shut down the Whitman Airport. Thank you.

David:

Hello everyone. My name is David, representing Woodbury University and also Pacoima Beautiful. I'm serial entrepreneur in the area, being a real estate agent. But my MBA recently obtained, I see more economical, social enterprise at stake here. The fact that this particular space and this airport is being beneficial to one certain race or segment of affluent individuals, it's unfair, it's unfit. It's unsuited to fit the community.

If it is a possibility, which sounds like there's pushback on both sides, we have to be fair about it. I've lived in Sun Valley, North Hollywood, and Shadow Hills my whole life. Seeing what economic potential there is in the future that we can tap into, I think it's unfair. It's unsuited, as everyone said before. If the airport is going to be intact, that whole area needs to be outfitted with soundproofing, new windows, ventilation. And this is going to be an expense that's going to be ongoing.

That's the expense that the pilots and the airport need to pick up in order to be fair as Burbank did with Hollywood Way and the Burbank Airport. If that is a possibility, that chart needs to be picked up by the pilots and the airport, just to be fair. I want to see that whole area, just the surrounding communities flourish, and social enterprise is very important, more than these people's leisure to fly. Thank you.

Stephanie:

Hello, good afternoon. My name is Stephanie, and I've been living in Pacoima my whole life. I just wanted to say that I'm against the Whiteman Airport, not only for the noise pollution, which has been plaguing this area for years, but especially because of the health risks associated with the airport.

We live in a valley which limits the amount of pollution able to leave the area. And Whiteman Airport is the largest identified toxic source emitted in Pacoima. It emits toxics almost 20 times higher for carcinogenicity and 70 times higher for chronic lung cancer, and almost 80 times higher for acute non-cancer, and the highest source emitter in the area.

I would just like to say that for my own personal experience, none of the local youth or elders have been able to benefit from the airport or have been invited to come in. And my question is, how much youth outreach do they do? Haddon Avenue elementary school is very close by, and children have not been invited to see the location or even learn about aviation, like how they claim.

Further, Pacoima Middle School as well as San Fernando High School is very close by, and I've attended all of those schools, and never have I once ever been invited by the airport itself to come in and learn about aviation. Because who really benefits from the aviation? As they were saying before, oh, people are not interested in aviation, but they never ... It's not that we're not interested in it, it's that we don't have the tools or the resources to do so.

Not only that, but I'd just like to say that I wanted to speak for all the people, all the community members who did not even know about this meeting, like my parents, my grandparents, my cousins, people who don't even speak English, people who only speak Spanish. And I think it's even a privilege to be a part of this dialogue. So, I wanted to just say my two cents. Thank you.

David:

Hi, my name is David. Just to give you a background. I'm currently a senior at Poly High School. I've studied environmental science for the past four years. I've also collected air quality data for USC's community engagement program on health in the environment. And more recently, I've even built my own air quality monitor under the guidance of MIT's faculty through their generous minority outreach

programs.

I just want to say I was really bothered by the comments that Whiteman has to stay open 24/7, because if not, people would break in and steal. If that's a genuine concern, the airport should take it upon themselves to deal with that through means of security. They're the ones choosing to continue operating in our community.

The locals should not have to suffer because of racist, unjust beliefs. As a senior, throughout all my years of schooling, I have never heard about the youth programs at Whiteman, and I've never seen outreach for these programs. As much as the proposed fixes could help, there's no special windows or curfew that will undo the health effects caused by the airport pollution.

There is no fix that will help locals forget the trauma of having plane crashes on their street. And there is no youth program that will make this airport worthwhile for the community. This needs to stop. The airport has caused damage to the community, not the other way around, which is why I support the closing of the airport. Thank you.