

**Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport Community Advisory Committee Meeting:  
Public Comments, October 28, 2021**

**Matthew:**

*Hi, my name is Matthew, pilot out of Whiteman, been there for eons and I'm very familiar with the airport. I wrote an article earlier this month in the San Fernando Sun talking about why the airport should stay and what a disservice it would be to the community for the airport to be closed. Now, the community has been very clear in these public comments, and that is that Pacoima Beautiful does not speak for Pacoima. Online comments on this matter regarding the airport, the community overwhelmingly supports the airport, they want the airport to stay. And something that I found when I was looking, researching for my article and just looking this up in general, keeping an eye on the progress of this, is that Pacoima Beautiful has really not acknowledged the community and their support for the airport. There is great support for the airport and Pacoima Beautiful has ignored it vehemently. And I've seen people in their comments, talking about their support for the airport. People have mentioned this, that Pacoima Beautiful, just ignores them. The fact is that, when they have their little rally in September, I found that it really showed Pacoima Beautiful was out of touch with the community and half of the airport's outreach and even this community action or advisory, rallied at Pacoima beautiful with no rally at all. 30 people showed up with Pacoima Beautiful clothes on, and the only person I saw that didn't have the Pacoima Beautiful clothes on was Monica Rodriguez. So where was the community? Oh, well they were at the airport at the same time as that rally. There were outreach events going on at Whiteman and dozens of local people, including children were taking part. In a statement that I referenced in my own article, Paul, the director, and Andreas Ramirez had even stated beforehand that Pacoima Beautiful had scheduled their rally to oppose the airport's outreach that day, which prevented the children that took part in the rally from taking part in the airport's outreach. And I think Pacoima Beautiful should be very sorry for having deprived them of that chance. Despite all of these calls by Pacoima Beautiful and others to have more outreach from the airport, Pacoima Beautiful has never once tried to advertise the airport's many opportunities, even as they have posted numerous anti airport posts, including many just today. And Pacoima Beautiful has a long history of anti airport hostility. But Ms. Padilla in particular revealed on that day that she, herself is hostile to the airport. She posed in a photo with Monica Rodriguez with a sign that said, "Shut down Whiteman Airport."*

**David:**

*All right. Well, hi everyone. My name's David. I'm a youth organizer here at Pacoima Beautiful. And so, just being involved in this campaign, I've seen so many heated attacks towards Pacoima Beautiful saying we're not connected to our community and all these*

*different things. But being connected to all these different high schools and networks of high schools in the Northeast San Fernando Valley, which is a really strong network filled with bright and talented youth. I can see that the airport hasn't been investing in youth and hasn't been investing in our community. And I think the comments saying that we're not in tune with our community, I think it's inaccurate. I mean, listen, we showed up to a protest rally where we gathered community members and people are starting to wake up and realize like, "Hey, listen, is this airport really for us? Is this space really open to us?" And after all our pushing and everything, I feel like now programs are starting to pop up. And talking to the youth and really being connected and being out there in the field, I know that there's no programs out there that has been advocated towards or reached out to. So this is all to say that I think the community is starting to understand and really realize what this airport really is for and it's not for us. And so I'm here for supporting the shutdown of the Whiteman Airport. It doesn't benefit our community and only plagues our skies and pollutes our skies. I still have a minute and 30 seconds left and I also want to say that, this has also been calling attention to a lot of different organizations. Research is now being produced in-house from UCLA and USC. And so we're really excited to produce that research and continue this process forward because I do think that there's a lot of data that can be produced from this, so thank you.*

**X2763:**

*Okay. Sorry. I'm at a Vet emergency clinic, if you hear barking, that's the noise. So anyway, I'd like to just say a couple things. In response to the gentleman who just spoke, the programs that are just popping up all of a sudden have been around 40 year at the Whiteman Airport. Can they do a better job reaching out to the community? Absolutely they can. And I believe they're working on it. I've spoken to several people there who are working very hard to reach out, do a better job reaching out. There's not a lot of very young people who are pilots, so they're not really accustomed to the social media means of communicating so they are working on that. I met an 18 year old Hispanic pilot, who was the first person to graduate in his family from high school and got his pilots license at 18 years old. So saying that the airport is not for us, that would be to argue, to close every airport in America because airports are for you, they're for me and they're for everybody that needs them. There's a lot of search and rescue that comes out of Whiteman Airport. There are the Ninety-Nines, female pilots that have been around for many, many years and lots of opportunities for a lot of different children. I was just there on Saturday where I witnessed eight year olds to 14 year olds building an actual airplane wing, okay. And they were very engaged, very happy to be there. So do they need to reach out to the local community? Sure. But we're not going to throw the baby out with the bath water, just because some people feel their feelings are left out. And I'll close by just asking everybody on both sides, please stop citing studies and statistics that have not been completed. You know it's not true, you know it's not fair and it is not intellectually honest. So please let's be civil. Everybody's emotional about this, I get it.*

*Let's be civil with each other. Let's not threaten people. And then go up in a rally and let's talk to each other so we can understand the issue before we start writing misinformation. Thank you so much.*

**Jennifer:**

*Hello. My name is Jennifer, and I am a youth at Pacoima Beautiful. And I am part of an environmental group. All over my school I see flyers, community cleanups, events and opportunities for the youth. Pacoima Beautiful has given me the opportunity to blossom and use my voice. Because of Pacoima Beautiful, I have gotten full tuition scholarships because they're building back of all my awards and achievements. As a senior, I have been given the opportunity to work with USC and the UCLA. One of the biggest polluters is Whiteman Airport, community college, green space, park gardens, or even an art walk, both are talented artists, while the Whiteman Airport drags the stereotypes of our community. I wish you could give these gang members like you displayed our community in the last week. I'm not bothered by flying in whatever, your planes. I am bothered that as a resident, you guys get to enjoy the land more than the residents who actually live here. I have never heard of any educational programs or flyers to get our community involved. I was at a meeting about a week ago and a community member mentioned that she sleeps terrified every night, knowing that these planes could crash and eventually kill her at any moment. She told me she comes home tired from work and still has to hear these planes flying over her head. Lastly, you could go to any market, 7/11 or with our committee, but at the end you still don't live here. You don't know what we fear. As much as you all tried to give reassurance from having us Hispanic in your Eagles program, I am still not one of them or I have never heard of any of my friends in there. Again, thank you for your time.*

**Jim:**

*Hi, I'm Jim. I'm the deputy commander of San Fernando Cadet Squadron 137 at Whiteman Airport. First, we've been on the airport for almost 40 years now providing aviation and leadership development program for the youth in the community. For Bobby, currently 30% of my membership lives in the immediate vicinity around the airport. I won't narrow it down just to Pacoima because if you put in 91331, Pacoima's zip code, it includes parts of Arleta and Sun Valley. But basically a third of my membership comes from the local community. There are some statistics I heard thrown out today that I'd like to ask, be clarified or at least substantiated. I do not believe that Whiteman Airport is generating \$46 million in revenue for the County. I think that number is far, far exaggerated, and I'd like the County to come up with something that indicates the actual amount of revenue generated by the airport's operations. In the airport's safety and accident chart that was shown, they had said there were eight accidents that occurred in the last 10 years, and they were showing a number of 79,000 operations per year. And then they said that that accident rate worked out to one*

accident for every 900 or 9,900 operations. And that number is wrong. If you did the math, that was a one year number of operations average over 10 years. It should have been 790,000 operations with eight accidents, which makes it one accident per 900 or 99,000 or almost one in 100,000 operations. Also out of that, there was only one fatality and that would make it one in a million accidents per operations. And finally there is currently a viewing area at Whiteman. It's located where Rocky's used to be, the old airport terminal area. It's open to the public. You don't have to go through any fences or gates or anything to go there and you can sit and watch the airplanes take off and land. There's picnic tables. A lot of people come there for lunch to enjoy the airport and enjoy watching the aircraft. Just some things that I heard that I'd like to get clarified. And I invite anybody in the community and those young speakers today that don't know what's available to come visit us on Monday nights. And we'll be happy to talk to them about what we have to offer to them. Thank you.

**Burton:**

Hi, my name is Burton. I'm a resident in Arleta, next door neighbor. As the gentleman said, share the same zip code as Pacoima. I've worked at a church here since 1991 and been involved with that church since 1976. I'm on the Arleta Neighborhood Council, but I'm speaking on my own behalf. I know you have heard comments from other people who work directly in contact with programs at Whiteman Airport and who are in support of keeping it and it's programs intact as a local resident in Arleta, which shares the same zip code with Pacoima. Please allow me to add my comments in support of keeping Whiteman and it's programs intact as I also share in the interests of this community. Here are two Whiteman programs that I only recently heard about. Whiteman Airport serves as a home base for pilots who participate in a program called Angel Flight, providing flights for patients in need, who require medical services available to them only in distant locations or returning them home after medical procedures. How much does it cost to fly with Angel Flight? There is no cost. Their services are absolutely free. They are a nonprofit organization with over a thousand volunteer pilots out of municipal airports, like Whiteman who provide transportation in their own private or rented aircraft. The other one that was mentioned earlier is 99 is an international organization of licensed women pilots. And those with student pilot certificates was founded in 1929. Amelia Earhart was elected the first president of Ninety-nines. Member pilots are also located at Whiteman. One of the programs there at Whiteman that I was personally introduced to a number of years ago and visited again last month is the Young Eagles Program. Young Eagle flights require prior registration and parental permission. Since 1992, more than 2.2 million Young Eagles have enjoyed a flight through the program at its various small airport locations. More than 9,000 from Whiteman Airport alone. Large airports are just too busy and cannot accommodate for such programs. Young Eagles have been registered in more than 90 different countries and have been flown by more than 42,000 volunteer pilots. The other is the program where the kids got to put

*together an aircraft. That's an ongoing project and kids are still available for that. Have a lot more to say, but I don't have any more time. I just encourage you to keep Whiteman Airport and its programs intact. Thank you.*

**Imelda:**

*Okay. I just want to say, this is a little bit of a strange meeting today compared to the last one that we had. I don't think there's been any progress made from the last one, just for the record. However, I will say that the beginning of this meeting where the Department of Public Works brought a report from the Orange County report, I really don't see what the point was to be honest. Because that is a very macro report that my understanding was made by maybe a staff of 15, very young, very smart people out of the CEO's office. So that's refreshing because now we know that the Department of Public Works and the Chief Executive Officer are talking about this small project in this community compared to the monstrosity of things that they look at every single day. But as a resident, granted, I'm not going to try to even act like I can be convinced that this community would benefit from something other than a closure. I'm not going to say... That's the truth, that's what I want. However, in this tech process, I hope it's clear that what I'm really demanding, what I think is completely unfair is the lack of your way to do meaningful engagement and meaningful research. A lot of the people on this committee are very smart and this is not their first rodeo. A lot of people in this community, it's not our first rodeo with the Department of Public Works. I said that at the last meeting. It took 10 years to give us anything respectful to getting the Rory Shaw project in Sun Valley done. And I said it last time too, if it wasn't for the voters passing it, I don't think that project would've ever really been listed off the ground because Public Works has proven historically not to care about the Northeast San Fernando Valley. So I am demanding. I am going to keep breaking your ears about how you need to put it up for bid and bring in some meaningful engagement and some meaningful research from entities that are not just your county staff. That is all I really have to say.*

**Bruce:**

*Hey, my name is Bruce. I'm a private pilot at Whiteman. I learned to fly there at Whiteman at age 66, after dreaming of flying and hanging out and looking at airplanes at Whiteman for a lifetime. I'm also an airplane owner and a hanger rental tenant at Whiteman. And I just want to comment about the nature of Whiteman and small airports. Small airports like Whiteman are necessary elements of the National Transportation System and are as essential as roads, freeways, shipping ports, and large airports. In addition to supporting travel to locations all over the country and indeed all over the world. Little airports like Whiteman serve as essential locations for primary and advanced pilot training. Virtually, all Air Force One, military airline, commercial instructor and private pilots started their careers at local airports like Whiteman. Many got their start as kids with free airplane rides provided by volunteers in the Young Eagles*

*or the Aviation Explorer Program that are both supported at Whiteman and have been for many years. Aviation in general is often misunderstood and under appreciated by the general public. But the airline transportation system that we take for granted has its foundation at the local community airport. Undermine the little airport and you jeopardize the future of aviation itself. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.*

**Gael:**

*Okay. So based on what I gathered, I go to a school nearby, not too long from here. It's called Academy. Yes. It may be so close. Yeah. I have never heard any programs about this. I have never seen anyone from Whiteman reach out towards my community, towards me personally, but compared to Pacoima Beautiful, I heard so many opportunities. They always reach out to me and you know what? I think if there were more of us against the airport than people trying to defend it on that protest. And I find that it's so unfair that people are trying to make us the bad guys, but we're just trying to defend our community, our homes and show respect for the people that live there. That's all I have to say.*

**Lisa:**

*Hi, this is my first meeting and I just want to say thank you for having this meeting and just all of the information that's gone out tonight. It's been great to get both perspectives and hear everybody talking on their different perspectives. I appreciate that and I'd like to introduce myself as the Aviation Explorer for 747, senior advisor and president of the nonprofit Aviation Explorer Inc. And I'm also a San Fernando Valley 99. I grew up in this area as a child and always wanted to learn to fly. And I got the opportunity in 2013 to start learning how to fly. And I got my private pilot and later got my instrument and later got my commercial pilot. And my goal right now is to finish becoming a certified flight instructor. In particular, to help youth get into aviation pursuits, whatever for being a private pilot or to get to the airlines or whatever that they are aspiring to get to. As you know, aviation is high on the stem and kids in the community... We've had kids in this community. We have one Explorer right now in Pacoima. His mom was here just two meetings ago and she told me, she goes, "We live in Pacoima. We're all for this." And we've had other kids from Pacoima come into our program. And these are kids that come in at 14, 15 years old. And before they're 21 they're pilots or they're airline pilots or they're air traffic controllers, or they are airport managers. And we've had actually more than 32 kids come to our program and leave our program as pilots. Some of them instrument rated. We've been here since 1996 and we have probably about 30% of our kids are Latino and very successful pilots today. We have one Genesis Reva that started coming here, riding the bus from north Hollywood. And she's a very successful pilot today. I'm also a Young Eagle pilot, and I've been flying Young Eagles since I got my private pilot in 2014. And some of you might want to look it up. If you want to, you can. It's in the Santa Clarita Signal, an article that they did for me,*

*that I have flown 300 kids in less than eight years. And we are about youth here at Whiteman. This aviation floor is about you, and we're going to get out there and we're going to publicize better so that you kids that are in Pacoima can come be a part of our program because we're here for you.*

**David:**

*Okay, thank you. I'd like to ask people to be really careful about the statistics that they use. It's awfully easy to say, "Oh, you don't reach out." Well, we've been flying Young Eagles from Whiteman for 29 years now. Many times it's been very difficult to get enough pilots. For many years, we were disappointingly few, had as many pilots as kids. But in the summer of 2019, just before this whole COVID thing happened, I went to Pacoima Charter, made a talk about flying in aviation, and the assistant principal there on three occasions, walked 50 kids, and they had to be local, to Whiteman Airport to get an airport tour, for God's sakes. You can't tell me that we're not reaching out or trying to do things for young people. And for those of you who might care, yesterday, I went into Vista Aviation when a young man overheard my voice, he asked me who I was and said that I had given him a ride in my airplane 10 years ago. He's now 21 and working actively to become an airline pilot. And I really don't care whether he lives in Pacoima or Sylmar or North Hills or Arleta or anywhere. It just made me feel real good to be part of giving that young man a direction for his life. And I think it's really, this is not going to be very popular with the Pacoima Beautiful people, to say, but I think it's the height of arrogance to think that the airport exists only to serve the local community. It's part of, as we said earlier, a national system with angel flight people, taking people all over the place, some 21 pilots based at Whiteman, giving services that happen everywhere. It's a regional airport. It's not just a Pacoima airport. Obviously it doesn't compare with LAX, but if we were living in El Segundo or Westchester or Inglewood, trying to close down LAX, we'd be laughed out of the room because it's just crazy. It doesn't make any sense to close down a regional airport that serves in so many different ways that you've been hearing about tonight and have known about before. But I would ask people to be more careful about the assertions you make about what's happening or not happening. Thank you.*

**Norma:**

*Hello everyone. I'm a member of the Sun Valley Neighborhood Council, but I'm speaking on my behalf. I want to start by saying that I support keeping the Whiteman. And I want to share that the first time I learned about the Whiteman getting shut down through a Pacoima Beautiful post on Facebook. And I was one of those people that... The earlier member mentioned that there were many, many comments from people saying to leave the Whiteman alone and leave it as it is. And when Pacoima Beautiful learned that I was not in favor of what they were saying, I guess they blocked me or they flagged me. And when they held their first meeting about discussing this, I was not allowed to get into their meeting. I did have other people coming into the meeting. And so I was able to*

*listen to their conversation, to their discussion. And I was told that I couldn't get in by because they had reach maximum capacity via a Zoom meeting. And there were about, I'll say 15 to 20 members, maybe 25 the most. And all I hear is how they were being coached to say what they needed to say about how their mental health is getting damaged. And I wasn't very happy about that. I was not given the opportunity to voice my opinion. I was there because I wanted to learn the other side. I wanted to learn from both sides. And I was not given that chance. Now with that, I don't want to say that Pacoima Beautiful is bad or that I want to discredit them. It's just that I don't feel that at this time, they're really supporting what the community wants. And I don't feel that they're listening to all of us. Yes, I am from Sun Valley. But given that in Sun Valley we have so many landfills, we have recycling centers. We have everything that has to do with cars, body shops, mechanic shops, all that kind of stuff. I really appreciate having the Whiteman and offering programs for other people, for other visions and opportunities that they cannot get anywhere else. So I support the Whiteman. Thank you. I yield my time.*

**Teodora:**

*Hi, my name is Teodora. I am a community organizer with Pacoima Beautiful. But first I am a resident of Pacoima. I grew up in Pacoima and I also went to Montague Charter Elementary School. Growing up in the community, I would look out to the airplanes and always imagine who was flying those airplanes. I never got a visit to Whiteman Airport as a youth at the time that I was at Montague, which was in the mid-2000s. I also want to state that these comments, like very similarly to David, that Whiteman Airport was here before many people moved in, I know if I did not want to see the planes, I will not get a house in Pacoima. Those comments are very popularly seen, as well on Facebook. These type of comments are very offensive because of the history of redlining in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and the history that has ties to the racial disparities that occur. This is not okay to have comments like this as well. I believe that the county should implement noise counseling windows, as well as put a curfew on the flights of Whiteman Airport. I live in the community and constantly hear these airplanes flying out at 8:00 PM or even closer to 9:00 PM. And I can't even believe that there is that there is a continued support for the aviation crew to continue doing trainings above our community when we are clearly stating that we feel at risk. These trainings are taking place over, like we're a playground for your enjoyment. And that that goes towards the various comments on Facebook as well, that there is support for the shutdown of Whiteman Airport, and no matter how long this takes, this is going to be a conversation that continues to grow and be a re-envisioning of Whiteman Airport. Thank you so much for this time.*

**Shellie:**

*Yes, this is Shellie. I'm not a pilot, but I hang out with pilots. I've heard many people who*

*say they want to close down the airport because the airport is not benefiting them personally. Well, I'm a 65 year old woman and Valley College is right near me. And they've been under construction for five, six years. And it's really been a pain in the butt, but it doesn't do anything for me. So I think we should close down Valley College and put up a shopping mall. That's something that I might want more. Just because you have never heard of the youth programs in this area doesn't mean they don't exist. We don't advertise our Aviation Explorer program at all. And yet we get one or two people that call us per week. If you're interested in something, you call. Maybe these other people just aren't interested in flying. Maybe they want to be, I don't know, hairdressers or I don't know. They want to be mathematicians or something. If you're interested, there is a place to go. And if you keep closing down everything that doesn't personally benefit you, then you're not going to have anything left. I mean, there's a lot of things around here. I don't drink alcohol. I think we should close every bar. Well, that doesn't make sense. I don't smoke. I think we should get rid of smoking completely in the state of California, but that doesn't work. You have to make concessions on what you immediately close down. I don't travel that much. I think we should close down LAX, but that means everybody else in the world won't be able to travel. I mean, you can't just close things down because you personally don't like it. You have to do it for the benefit of the good of the whole community. It takes a village. It doesn't just take one little square block. You have to open your mind to what is available out there. Thank you.*

**X5417:**

*My name is James and I am for keeping the airport. I went to see it. They had a bunch of kids there taking rides on the plane. They were so excited. I think it was awesome. I never knew. I mean, I've lived in Pacoima pretty much all my life and I never really paid attention to the airport. And when I saw it, I said, "Man, what a treasure." And this is something that we can actually use if something happens, something terrible happens, like an earthquake, where everybody can meet and everybody can find out if everybody's okay. And if anybody's missing. Where are you going to have that kind of space to do that kind of emergency preparedness kind of stuff? And like they said, they also do a lot of emergency situations for the surrounding areas. And the benefits that are there for our kids and women and the girls. I mean, there's girls there that are training to be pilots and mechanics and stuff. That it's really, really amazing. And the thing we should be concentrating on is the freeways that are spewing all this pollution with these big trucks and all the illegal body shops that are illegally painting vehicles next to people that have apartments in the back of the body shop. This is all down Van Nuys Boulevard. I mean, it's incredible. It's just like they're creating one pollution after another. And also while we're at it, we should limit liquor stores because that's causing a lot of accidents and deaths. We just recently had two people that died, hit and runs. Both of them on Laurel Canyon, by the way; they're both next to me. So I'm for keeping the airport and we need to concentrate on the things that are really causing problems in our community, like the*

*people that are driving fast and the people that are driving drunk and also taking care of these body shops that are polluting our neighborhood. And that's all I have right now. Thank you.*

**Eli:**

*Good evening. My name is Eli. I'm the President of the Lake View Terrace Improvement Association and also I'm on the Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council. But this evening I'm representing myself. I've been listening to a lot of different views regarding the airport. I'm kind of haven't made my mind one way or the other, but I'm asking a lot of questions. I can't seem to get answered. So that's where I am right now. I appreciate all of the comments. But what I'm trying to find out basically is what are the main three reasons why people want to shut the airport down in order to make a decision to shut it down? Because shutting it down is pretty permanent. Once that's done, we can't rebuild it, bring it back. The airport do serve a number of good functions here in the community. So my thing is, in a decision of possibly shutting it down, what are the alternatives to shutting it down? What are the options? What is the plan? Those are the type of questions that I'm having, as well as wanting to hear from others in the community as well. We'd like to hear both sides and all views of the positions for the airport. But also regarding the airport itself, I do agree that the airport probably could do much better getting and information out to the community, making the community aware of all of the different programs that are available at the airport. I think once a lot of our young people are exposed to the possibilities of the aviation industry, I think a lot of our kids would get involved and open up their mind to it and they'll take off from there. So right now, initially I'm leaning towards thinking that we should keep the airport. I would like to also hear other opinions and then make a decision from there. I think we are better as far as letting the community know and communicating to the community to hear all voices. And for some reason I keep feeling as if everyone in the community's voices are not being heard, wherever position that they would have. So I think I've been here in the community for about 33 years. And we work in the community quite frequently. And so we'd like to hear everyone's voice. Pacoima, yes. Lakeview Terrace, yes. Sylmar, yes. Arleta, yes. Want to hear everyone's opinion before the decision is made, but I think there has to be a very good reason for just shutting down the airport. If there's a good reason and there is a good alternative plan, there may be, but right now I think it's a pretty permanent thing to shut the airport down. So right now I'm leaning towards keeping the airport. And I would like to hear from more people in the community. Thank you for hearing me.*

**Ethan:**

*Hi, good afternoon. My name is Ethan. I'm curious to know what the environmental impact has been, not just this last year, but throughout the history of the airport. And I'm interested to know how the 47 million have been reinvested in this community, not*

*just now, but throughout the years as well and how we could reimagine a more environmental, just, and equitable society. So when will we be talking about what other options we have in this particular space and how the most impacted, which are the ones living in the area, are being reached out to and are being welcomed and encouraged to share their ideas and their experiences living around the area and this all. Thank you.*

**Elisa:**

*Yes. Thank you. I live in Pacoima. I was born and raised. I'm very proud of it. I'm against closing the airport. Why can we not have a good communication and work with each other? The airport is trying their best to remodel to make it more accessible to the community. I was there in September when they were giving these young kids rides on the plane. There was kids there from Pacoima. when Pacoima Beautiful started marching and protesting, a lot of those kids got scared. That wasn't right. They could have scheduled the protest for another day. My second thing is they're offering, the airport is offering, so many good classes and programs that a lot of children in our community wouldn't have access to it and to good paying jobs. Not only that, but it is very, very sad, and I am so sorry for the person that died in the plane. And I feel bad for the families that were in those houses. But what about the families that got run over by Metro? When I was 13 years old, Metro killed two of my friends, Mark, and NAME. And no one did anything about it. What about the accident that happened a couple of months ago in San Fernando Road where she hit a car? No one says nothing about that. What about where they make tar between San Fernando and on the borderline of Pacoima? Between 10 and 8, Pacoima smells really bad like tar. Isn't that bad for our lungs? Now when people are talking about data, why don't we talk about it when it's done? And we have the proof of what they've done. I am for the Young Eagle program and the Angel program. Why? Because when I was going through cancer treatments, if I would've needed a ride to get my treatment, they would've flowed me there for free. Now, when the Northridge earthquake happened and the 14th freeway collapsed, people from Whiteman Airport were bringing services to Pacoima. I am so proud to say that I live next to an airport. Thank you.*

**X9718:**

*My name is Stacy and I just want to start by saying that I am a San Fernando Valley 99 woman pilot. As I was saying, my name's Anastasia. I go by Stacy. I'm a school teacher and a San Fernando Valley 99 certificated flight instructor. And I wanted to start by saying that how it all started. I brought my nine year old son out to fly Young Eagles. It was through the Boy Scouts and when he came out, he had enjoyed it, but I got captivated. So instead of just me being excited about flying, I've taken it back to my school, which happens to be a Title I in Burbank. And we have a lot of kids just of all varying classes and ages and cultures and diverse. It's very diverse. So I have brought several kids to Young Eagles and have taken them personally on an airplane ride and*

*they have all... Some loved it, but others went on and became airline pilots, air traffic controllers. I have a student in the Air Force. And I just think it's just a great opportunity. To reach out to the whole area. In Pacoima, a lot of the students I've taken have been from the Pacoima area because when I get them in the airplane, I ask them about themselves. "Where are you from?" "I live in Pacoima," or a lot of them from Sylmar, San Fernando and Sun Valley. And so I just feel that by closing this airport, it would just do a tremendous disservice for community. I also am going to just sort of piggyback on what I heard other people say. I find there to be more of a problem with just like the community being so dirty around there. There's a lot of trash and maybe we could help. I mean, reach out to us. Maybe we can participate in doing a cleanup and helping Pacoima. We could merge with Pacoima Beautiful and help take care of it. And we'd like to be part of that. Our explorers, they do work to get flying. So maybe we can all partake. I would be very up to doing it. And I'm sure the kids, if they want to go on those airplane rides and join those communities, they would be very proud to help support the community. And I think that's really all I have to say. Because I know I'm going to run out of time.*