

Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport Community Advisory Committee Meeting #15: Public Comments, December 15, 2022

Public Comment for Motion #1: CAC Meeting on January 26, 2023, to be held virtually (Motion did not pass)

Diana:

Okay. To me above everything else in the world, it should be safety first, above anybody's like feelings about anything that's gone in the past. It should always be safety first. And that's my comment. And we're in a world now where we live, where everything's shifted towards, to me I've seen, towards online. Whether you're sick, you can do it at home. Whether you're at work, you can get online and be in the meetings. Whether you have kids now, you can be at the meeting. no matter what, you can be on a meeting now because it's on Zoom. If you're doing it online, if you have to go in there, if you're disabled, you can do it on Zoom. Oh, if you don't have a car, you can do it on Zoom. Any of those things now, you can't do if you have to go in. So I just wanted to bring that up.

Jim:

Thank you. It never popped up with the unmute button, so I wasn't able to talk to you. And since chat's disabled, I couldn't tell you that. I would like you to encourage everyone to vote for an in-person meeting. We've spent the last year and a half looking at screens where we don't get to see the faces of the people that are on the committee, except during the brief times when they're making their personal statements. And there is a lot of communication that goes on, nonverbal communication that I think it's important for people to see. And you can't do that with a Zoom meeting. So I think that it's the intent of the Brown Act.

It's the intent of holding public meetings that we be able to go there and see the people, both the members of the committee and the community and their reaction to what's being said. And we don't get that. None of you get to see me other than the in-person meetings we've had. None of you know what I look like, who I am or anything like that. And the in-person meetings allow us to have better communication and it forces people sometimes to make harder decisions than they would when they can hide behind the anonymity of the Zoom meeting and not being seen when they're not speaking. Thank you.

Matthew:

Hi. I'll go along with the push for in-person meetings. As Jim said, certain things are best understood when you're looking at people face to face. And a lot of people who have pushed for the in-person aspect have previously talked about how they want to see the community and this and that. Well, we can do that with in-person and we can do it better with in-person meetings. And going beyond that, we need to see who it is that's attending these because that is in itself a good show of things. And with that said, I will say that there is really no need for the county to go extravagant on childcare and all this other things. If you're bringing children along and they don't want to come along, what's the point?

Paul Maselbas:

Excuse me. Keep the comments limited to this discussion of whether we'll meet virtually or in person.

Matthew:

Certainly. I'll go ahead with the in-person meetings, I would back that but it doesn't have to be anything too extravagant. It can be modeled after the previous meetings in the same format as those. There was no major issue there. So I see no reason to tamper with success. Thank you.

Beciado:

Okay. Yes, I totally agree with Jim and the other person that just called, we should do an in-person meeting. I totally agree that I want to see, be able to talk face to face with my representatives, find out why we're doing this nonsense. So yeah, I'm more than willing to come out. Like he said, we don't have to do anything extravagant just, but I am going to go ahead and throw my weight behind that as well. I want an in-person. I want to see who are you, who's doing what and who really shows up for this nonsense.

Diego:

Hi, this is Diego, I apologize for the name change. I just wanted to advocate that it'd be great to have an in-person meeting and also if the county can implement better childcare provided in more than just candy or water as a type of food for the community. If there can be some food that also be great. So, folks are able to have a meal after coming from a long day, whether that be from work or their personal journeys. But yes, thank you.

Paul Maselbas:

Thank you. I'd like to remind all who would like to speak on this motion to limit your comments only to discussion about whether to have the meeting in person or virtual. Thank you.

Francisco:

Oh, okay. So, is that first time here. So, first thing is I want to make the meeting on person because I have a friend, they can go there in person because they don't know how to do the Zoom meeting. So basically, he's like, yeah. And then I can bring him or bring a few neighbors I have here where I live, so I can bring them. So, we can't know all the people understand, you know how to use the Zoom meeting. That the thing.

Kevin:

Good evening Committee members. I'm a little surprised you guys are not considering a hybrid format. Right now, City of Los Angeles, the city council actually allows for both in-person and online testimony at their meetings. I know it's not part of your motion but it's something you should consider if you want to do an in-person meeting, that you will at least allow an online option so people can, who can't make it to the meeting, can at least listen in and if possible,

even comment on the meeting. I understand your desire to want to meet in person and see people, but I don't think you should restrict people who for one reason or another cannot make it to the meeting. It is possible to do both have an online option but an in-person meeting. And I think that's something you guys might want to consider. I yield my time.

Norma:

Thank you. I support either one in person, but I like the idea of the previous speaker. That hybrid would be a great idea for those who cannot attend in person because of childcare or the weather. And for those who don't know how to use Zoom, then they could be in person. So I think either the hybrid, it's a great idea. So, I support that. Thank you. I yield my time.

Public Comment for Motion #2: CAC Meeting on January 26, 2023, to be held as a hybrid meeting (Motion did not pass)

Diana:

Hi. Regarding doing it dual or hybrid, I do tons of Zoom meetings and all and Excel spreadsheets and everything else, and everything on my phone. On my phone. That's all I use. That's all you need to do the meetings on if it comes to that. And all you need to do is put it on speaker and if someone wants to ask a question or do a question, you can talk to them. You don't need to just say, Hey, we can't take your comments or be quiet or whatever you have to do. Everything can be done and it's super easy. But I just wanted to add that.

Xavier:

Okay. Yes, my name is Xavier. No, I don't agree we should do a meeting where people are allowed to comment anonymously where you can't see their face, they're not attending, they're just hiding the background. And no, if you want to comment, you should be able to be there in front of everybody and say what you're going to say to people's faces. So no, I don't agree we should have a hybrid. If you want to have it broadcast, that's fine. I don't care about that. But no comments. That would not be fair to the people that actually have come out to the meeting to make the public comments. So I don't agree we should do either the hybrid with people being able to see it, but no comments, or just don't even bother with it and have to show up. Okay. That's my opinion. Bye.

Matthew:

Hi. To echo what the previous fellow said, I would have to agree, and we've done in-person meetings before, they've worked out. The public has had their chance to speak in those meetings and we've seen plenty of turnout in them. Everyone's getting a reasonable chance in in-person meetings. There's no major hurdle to attending an in-person meeting really. If you want to get to a meeting like this, we know when it's going to be, we have a very good idea now where it's going to be. People who want to attend will have plenty of time to plan it out and how they want to do it, if they want to attend. And if they don't have the ability to get ahold of transportation and all these other things in a month's time, I think a wagon train could probably get to the school with a month's notice. So, there's no real reason to pester the county's

technical staff to work miracles in a month here to satisfy what's really an unnecessary option. There's no real need for it. So, I don't see any reason to trouble them. Thank you.

General Meeting Public Comment

Melissa:

Hi. My name is Melissa, and I'm calling on behalf of Pacoima Beautiful. We are calling for the closure of Whiteman Airport and calling for a plan to support community engagement with developing a space where they feel welcomed, loved, and supported. We are also calling for the FAA and the county to put a curfew on the Airport, give community members noise canceling windows, air purifiers, and air purifiers that live within one mile of the Airport and stop the use and storage of leaded fuel at the Airport.

The private airplanes that operate out of Whiteman Airport use leaded aviation fuel and a study conducted in San Jose community, the Reid-Hillview Airport found that children within a half mile from the Airport had blood lead levels of 1.93 on average, which is similar to the blood exposure levels at the highest part of the Flint, Michigan crisis.

I want to encourage this body to pressure the county, the FAA, and the USEPA to continue to conduct studies and provide community engagement opportunities around the closure and re-envisioning process. Pacoima deserves to know the generational, environmental and health impacts at Whiteman Airport that has been perpetuated there.

Lastly, re-envisioning for community members means what we can have on the land that will focus on safety, health, and sustainability of Pacoima. Whiteman Airport divides our community. It was created in 1946 to provide rich white people a place to fly planes in a community that is not theirs, and pollute multiple generations of the community members with leaded fuel.

I call for the CAC to look at Whiteman Airport as a way to provide restorative justice to the community. We must prioritize the harm done to the community rather than push legislative process that was not designed to prioritize communities like ours and demand reparations for the decades of harm and damage done from Whiteman Airport. Shut it down. Thank you.

Paola:

Yeah, so as a resident of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley, now I see, I feel and recognize the issues that exist around us. If you live here, I think you know that there are a lot, but it's important that as we start thinking about solutions to the issues around us, it's necessary that we don't keep going forward with business as usual. To all those making decisions and in a position of decision-making, I think it's important that you open yourself up to new ways of thinking and new ways of building relationships with people and with nature.

We have to mend broken relationships and let go of those that don't serve us anymore. I feel like Whiteman Airport hasn't served those that it negatively impacted for a long time. Its presence in the community represents a broken relationship that honestly, I don't think can be repaired, and quite frankly, the solutions that were proposed I feel are too little, too late.

All the quote unquote positive solutions that were proposed were tied to the Airport remaining open, which to me was not okay. I don't understand why the solutions proposed can't exist regardless of the Airport staying open. That's something I would like to see. I feel like the solutions presented don't meet the needs of the people, the plants, the animals, or the land that Whiteman Airport has historically negatively impacted. I think that we definitely need to do a better job at re-imagining what this space can be in the future for all the residents of Los Angeles. Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to speak. Thank you.

Eusebio:

*Okay. I was born in 1972 in Pacoima. This whole nonsense that the Airport was made for rich old white man is stupid because I'm a f***** aircraft owner. I'm not a white man. I'm not rich, okay? The whole thing about being old white men is just dumb. This is just a stupid woke argument, okay? Let's talk about reality. The Airport is very necessary.*

It provides a lot of jobs, there's a shortage of pilots going on in America that's not being resolved anymore. Where are people going to go to fly their airplanes that they have? They're going to go to LAX? It's not going to happen. This is just pure nonsense. I don't like the suggestion that rich white men are the ones who are doing this. I have my airplane. I bought it in 2007 and I just paid it off last year. Why? Because I wanted to fly, okay?

I'm not rich like these people assume, and that lady that kept saying, "Oh, you people are intimidated because they want to look us in the eye, or they're intimidated when we go leave stuff at their doors," maybe they don't like you because they want to keep the Airport open. Maybe you're the minority, okay? Because you nonsense people yell loudly about your nonsense, want to change what's already been established.

That Airport has been here the forties. I doubt anybody has been around in their houses since the forties. Very few, if any, okay? I was born in '72, and if people buy houses now in Pacoima, they get discounts for them because they're close to the Airport. Let's stop the nonsense. Let stop this craziness. Leave people alone and go and do something productive with your life rather than mess with other people that has something that's of value today. Thank you.

Loyce:

Thank you. I'd like to thank Paul. I was at the open house with several other people. He gave us good information. He was polite. He in no way made any comments to us. I will say though, that when we were trying to listen to the gentleman who was contracted on the sound report, there were people from Pacoima Beautiful that joined the meeting late, interrupted the meeting, kept talking about Santa Monica Airport and other airports instead of discussing Pacoima or Whiteman Airport. If you want to be respected, you have to give respect. That's why it's hard to understand why you people cannot give respect to those that are doing the work and doing it properly under government regulations.

We all have government regulations that we have to follow and being rude and impolite, which is what I have noticed from Pacoima Beautiful, yelling people down at other meetings, I have no respect for you because it's your way or no way. We have to do this together to work to find the

best solution for this Airport that has been a wonderful asset to our community in so many ways. To take things away that are good community programs, I find disgusting. Thank you.

Norma:

Thank you. My name is Norma, and I just want to say that I continue to support keeping the Whiteman Airport and something that hurts me a lot because I am Hispanic, it hurts me to hear that we want to mend relationships when we continue to point to other ethnic groups as if they were not part of this community. This community is very diverse, and we should respect each other and just live in community, make community, and just show respect for everybody, whether they have a different opinion from ours or not. Thank you so much.

Shellie:

Hi, this is Shellie. Around two meetings ago, Mr. Arias came on, and he said that we were using all kinds of non-respectful language, and I sat and listened to all the things being said about our so-called white people at the Airport and frankly, I am just disgusted. The word racist has been thrown around and thrown around and thrown around, but truly, these are racist comments.

When you constantly throw my color or my religion or my whatever in my face all the time. I am not a racist. I was born in Detroit. I lived in Detroit, I went to school in Detroit, I worked in Detroit. I dated Black people. What? I have to say that now on... that I dated Black people? This is ridiculous. Using derogatory language when referring to people at the Airport is not okay.

It's just not okay, and yet, our hands are tied, and we have to bite our tongues and we don't say anything derogatory about whatever race you people are. I'm just so sick of it. I get so nervous at the end of these meetings that I have to take heart medication. I am just so disgusted, disgusted with the horrible, horrible, horrible things that you people have said. I'm just ashamed that this is part of the United States. You people are disgusting. Thank you very much.

Jim:

Hello everyone again. I would like to start out saying that I support Mr. Maselbas remaining involved in this process. I was present at the Pacoima Middle School or Pacoima Elementary School meeting. I overheard his comments. He was not making comments that were favorable or anti-airport. He was giving factual information, as he said. In the statement that Ms. Padilla-Campos read, the person was minimizing it saying...

Well, they talk about pollution, and they said there were 13 years to get the Airport closed. Those are true facts that he was trying to share and wasn't him trying to convince somebody to keep the Airport open. Even tonight, Ms. Walk was talking about the pollution from the Airport. If we can't address that issue in giving facts about it, how is that being against closure of the Airport? He was just giving facts.

With regard to a statement by Ms. Padilla-Campos about she felt there were more positive things to be done for the Airport if it remained open than there were things that would be coming from it being closed. She's been a part of this process since the beginning for two years. She's had plenty of opportunity to express her ideas of what she would envision the Airport looking like if it was closed and she's chosen not to.

Finally, I would ask that Ms. Padilla-Campos consider recusing herself from this committee given the fact that she has never had an open mind about the Airport remaining open. Currently, her organization is hiring people to go out and pursue the closure of this Airport, and there's no doubt in my mind that regardless of the outcome of this committee's vote, she is going to continue to want to close the Airport.

Craig:

Hi. My name's Craig. I'm a local user of the Airport. I just wanted to say that ... You can vote to close the Airport. In my opinion, it's spinning into the wind because the airport's accepted funding from the FAA and has committed to stay open another 20 years. Nobody's discussed this. They continue to ignore that in this meeting, but you can vote to close the Airport. I think a lot of the people on the committee have decided to close the Airport before they even started these meetings.

They stacked the deck against the Airport users in the pro-airport portion of the community by not including those people. They took 20 people, anti-airport, they put them on the committee, and then they got two airport users and put them on as tokens, and they made their mind up before they ever decided to have any of these meetings, but you've heard what's going on at the Airport.

People in the community want to support the Airport. You can do something positive, we can get community involvement, you can pursue noise abatement and all kinds of other things to maintain the value of the Airport, or you can just say, "I want to vote to close the Airport and do something destructive." In my mind, I think if people are open-minded and really understand what's going on, they'll support the continued use of the Airport. Voting to close the Airport is just basically a waste of time. That's all I wanted to say. Thanks.

Matthew:

Hi, my name is Matthew, and good evening everyone. I'm a local pilot who's been around Whiteman forever, and a lot of you know that from listening to me here. I'd hoped to talk about other matters tonight, but things have changed. Veronica Padilla's allegations about Paul Maselbas cannot be overlooked. It amazes me to see someone who has complained about her record, factual record that we have in on paper, calling that character assassination.

Now she's bringing forward allegations that are unproven by her own statement and presenting them here as though they're fact. I'm not even sure that letter is genuine, but if you want to see character assassination, take a look at that. Now, as far as neutrality goes and all this, I have to agree with Mr. Miller's previous comments. Pacoima Beautiful entered this process with no interest in neutrality. Not a bit.

In fact, when we look back at the history, you can look back at a video recording of the press conference they did on November the 18th, 2020, they went to the site of the Sutter Avenue tragedy and their primary speaker, Roberto Barragan, a financier of ICON CDC, where Veronica Padilla formerly worked, he spent about 10 seconds talking about the tragedy that had occurred there before going on to many minutes of discussing how development could be done.

He was not talking about a park. He discussed industry, housing. It's not park land. They're not in it for a park. As far as the paid canvasser routine that Mr. Miller mentioned goes, they are hiring now at \$22 an hour at Pacoima Beautiful, and it is for the Shutdown Whiteman Coalition, and it is, quote, "A temporary position with Pacoima Beautiful." Open-mindedness, that isn't.

AnnaKaren:

Hi. Good evening, CAC. My name is AnnKaren, and I'm a community member. I've been engaging in the CAC process for the past 10 months, and I'm both disappointed but not surprised at the lack of progress that this body has made to deeply engage local community members in the process to determine how nearly 200 acres of land in their own community will be developed.

There are no benchmarks for ensuring that community members are present at these meetings, and I'm certain if we were to look at the roster of attendance, we'd clearly see a majority of aviation representation. Our community faces serious digital inequities and maintaining this process virtually only further alienates our community from participating in this process.

The Spanish translation is often incomplete and incoherent, and halfway through this meeting, the translation stopped and then it overlapped. How are community members supposed to actually be a part of this conversation? As we discuss holding a meeting in January, it's imperative that our county conducts adequate outreach and talks to residents and business owners several weeks in advance. For all of these past CAC meetings, the county will send over a flyer the same week, and offer candy for dinner during these meetings. This process is a continuation of the legacy of actions that LA County has taken to leave our community out of the public process. The body has also condoned the disrespect of Pacoima residents by allowing comments that reinforce harmful stereotypes about low-income communities of color, saying that we can't have a curfew because community members are going to come in and steal, or that you can offer jobs as airplane washers. I'm advocating for the shutdown of the Whiteman Airport and hope to see better community engagement in this process.

Araceli:

Hi. My name is Araceli. I'm a community member, and I'm here to share that I'd like the airport to be closed. I want to also start off by saying that, up until this point, I've heard a lot of people talk about Pacoima Beautiful, and I just want to point out that this isn't a meeting about Pacoima Beautiful. I really thought this was a meeting about the airport.

This is my first meeting, and I haven't heard anything negative about Pacoima Beautiful, so I just want to say that. The airport negatively harms our community, our lungs and our soil. Residents in Santa Monica recognize the harm of the local airport and were swift to remove it. Pacoima is already one of the top five most polluted communities according to the CalEnviroScreen, with the airport being identified as the largest toxic emitter.

Additionally, I don't personally know any community members who benefit or use the airport directly. We are constantly in fear as we see these planes flying overhead. I can speak personally to that. The community is constantly showing up to these meetings and speaking out. We don't want programs, we want clean air. We don't want breadcrumbs, we want the airport shut

down, and we want to use the space. We want it to be re-imagined, used by the community and for the community. Thank you.

Melanie:

Hi. My name is Melanie. I am a community member, and I would like to share that I have been disappointed with the CAC town hall meetings. I'm also calling for the closure of Whiteman Airport and calling for a plan to support community engagement with developing a space where they feel welcome, loved and supported.

I'm also calling for the FAA and the county to put a curfew on the airport, give community members noise-canceling windows and air purifiers that live within one mile of the airport. I want to encourage this body to pressure the county, FAA and the USEPA to continue to conduct studies and provide community engagement opportunities around the closure and re-envisioning process.

Pacoima deserves to know the generational environment and health impacts that Whiteman Airport has perpetuated. We are talking about the detriment this airport has had on our community. Why is our right to a healthier community so hard to reach? We deserve more, and we have the chance to make a difference now rather than wait. Thank you.

David:

I've heard a lot over the couple of years of this meeting the term "too little, too late," and I want to address the Young Eagle Program just a little bit. In November, we flew our 10,000th flight, which is all paid for out of the pockets of the pilots, not by the kids, for kids under 18 to take those flights. Many, and I don't have a statistic on this because it's impossible to figure it out, have chosen to launch careers in aviation because of their airplane rides. It really inspires an awful lot of confidence and inspiration for people. In this coming Saturday, we have nine people scheduled from Pacoima. The only larger community that has more people is 11 is the entire city of Los Angeles, for God's sake. We're not failing to meet the needs of local community.

I'd also like to point out the Build Program where we're having kids build an airplane. We've had about 130 of them involved in the last year some of them very, very diligently, many of them choosing to launch a career that's completely different from what they ever might have thought of before their exposure to this sort of things at the airport, so I think we shouldn't ignore facts like that. It's not too little too late in any sense of the word. Thank you.

Martinez:

Hello, everyone. My is Martinez, and I'm a longtime Pacoima resident. The history of Pacoima has always been the fear of planes. I went to Pacoima Middle School, and I remember always being in the field site in PE and always thinking that a plane could land on us just like the history, like Ritchie Valens' best friend, die in Pacoima Middle school. Every year, it comes back again, it's a terror that I feel every time that we have an accident, as you know, we have one to two accidents every year of every airplane landing here in the White Airport. I panic every time I see an airplane thinking that it's going to land or that a house is going to get on fire or we're just going to have another accident.

I never ever had any benefit from the airport. I know that they have a program, but I was recently told that you can't join without a parent. I don't know no parent that would let their kid fly with a stranger. I call, I fully support the shutdown of the airport, and I'm really thankful for Pacoima Beautiful and all the community members that are rethinking this space, because we need more open space in Pacoima, and we do not need an airport that none of us are benefiting from. Thank you.

Crystal:

Hi, my name is Crystal. I am a longtime Pacoima resident. I have moved in and out of the community throughout the years, and one thing that has always been a constant negative factor when I have been here is the airport, the noise pollution, it's unbearable, I moved back during COVID, and my kids had to go back to school online and they could not focus because, every 10 minutes or so, 20 minutes, there was an airplane flying above us, and that is still happening while they're in class in-person, the airplanes still fly above their schools.

I wanted to talk about there's been a clear learning curve with the way that you guys have addressed our community. I have been to almost every single one of your meetings, and I have seen a lack of representation for our community. I also want to bring up to your attention that my child was misguided at your first open house with one of your staff members telling her to write something down that did not represent what she was telling them, and the only reason that they did this is because my mother who looks like she only speaks Spanish was with my daughter. She is the one who understood that they were not writing down what my daughter was telling them, and she brought it to my attention, but at the time that she brought it to my attention, it was too late. I did bring this to your attention at one of your guys' meetings, nothing was done about that. I also wanted to bring up that childcare and food is a priority for our community. Thank you.

Aaron:

Hello. My name is Aaron, and I have lived in Pacoima my entire life. I support the shutdown of the airport in order to prevent further lead contamination within my community. I also want to speak to the point of mitigation that was brought up earlier such as fuel-efficient vehicles, new windows for community, homes and businesses. We're at a point empirical evidence has stated scientifically we cannot have fuel-efficient vehicles. We need to get rid of fossil fuels altogether, so that will be incumbent on closing the airport and as far as the new windows, the shutdown of Whiteman Airport is not a new concern for the community. This airport has been here for decades, and they have continued to ignore us, not listen to us and gaslight us. Thank you for the time.

Ernesto Ayala:

Hello. My name is Ernesto, and I'm with La Raza Unida and my family has been here for generations. So, if people want to play the little timeline game, we could do that. The Whiteman Airport has been a blight on Pacoima for generations. Nobody in Pacoima really uses that, getting one token person to say that to try to downplay the arguments of the actual community means nothing. Nobody here is community except for the people that are coming from Pacoima

Beautiful and speaking their minds and telling people in English and Spanish that we do not want this place here with this airport does not benefit us, does not benefit anybody in the community. It pollutes us, it poisons our children. I don't know why that's not getting across. It's poisoning our children, it's poisoning the environment around us. It's a blight. It's economically leeching off of our community like all these other places have for generations since Pacoima has even existed.

I want people to take that into account and stop beating around the bush and ignoring what the community is saying, we don't want this place here. It could be many other uses, back in the 1980s it was proposed to be one of the sites for the Los Angeles Mission College. And obviously that was opposed by Whiteman Airport. I don't know if people don't remember that far back, I'm sure they do. You keep ignoring what the community's actually saying. We do not want this place here. We don't need it, we don't want it. If you want an airport, go ahead. We're not against that. But put it in your own community. We don't need it here. We have a lot of things that we could use in Pacoima that are not being addressed. And this is a site that could address that could be whatever the community wants it to be, but polluting economically, leeching waste of space. We don't want it. Thank you.

Teodora:

Thank you. And then I have a public comment from someone who had to step out because of work. His name is Johnny Smith, and I can go ahead and read his public comment. Johnny Smith said, "I feel that we should be able to ask questions in front of the board committee and get feedback in person." And that's all he stated for his public comment.

Teodora:

Okay, thank you. Hi, my name is Teodora, and I am longtime resident of Pacoima, I'm also a supporter of the shutdown Whiteman airport campaign. I urge you to please support the community members asking for the shutdown of Whiteman airport and requesting a true intentional visioning process to engage community members in order to hold LA County, the FAA and Whiteman airport accountable for the terminal health safety and Environmental impacts Whiteman airport has had on Pacoima and developing more sustainable and community-based process to identify short and long-term solutions for airport closure that will benefit our community.

Every plane that takes off and lands at Whiteman airport, even if it doesn't crash, poses a significant threat to community members health, safety, and wellbeing. According to the National Transportation Safety Board's Aviation Archives, there have been 56 Accidents since 1983, which reflects to one to two Accidents per year. The private planes that operate at a Whiteman airport use leaded aviation fuel, in a study conducted in San Jose's community near San Jose Reed Hill View airport found that children within a mile and a half from the airport had blood levels as high as 1.3 on average, similar to lead exposures level to the Flint, Michigan crisis. Whiteman airport is also the largest identified toxic source emitter in Pacoima and Whiteman airport toxics almost emits 20 times higher for heart diseases, 70 times higher for cancer.

And also, it's evident that Whiteman airport impacts our Pacoima residents negatively. We also recently found that through Casper's Pacoima community health report draft, that one out of three households in Pacoima are very concerned about the Whiteman airport. We really want the committee to advocate for community members to shut down Whiteman airport slab of flight curfew and also as many mitigation efforts as possible.

James:

This is James. I support the airport. I think it's very valuable. I mean it's a great training ground for a lot of the youth that are in our community and throughout the county of Los Angeles. It's a great place for them to learn the technology as it comes, as it moves forward. We need it. We need it very badly. And I wanted to say I was disappointed that Whiteman, the young Eagles and that group weren't involved in the Christmas parade. I would've loved to see that, to go out there and have like a float or something. It would've been great. So that's my comments. I support the airport wholeheartedly and I appreciate all those that are fighting for it. Thank you.

Steven:

Hi. I have a public comment for myself as well as for community members. I am speaking, I'm joining Pacoima Beautiful in this meeting. My comment is going to be here beginning now. The Whiteman airport is a threat to our public health and public safety here in Pacoima. On average, there are one to two accidents a year from flights leaving or arriving at the Whiteman Airport. According to the National Transportation Safety Board, there have been 56 Accidents in the past 40 years. 65% of accidents are due to personal flights and 22% of those accidents are instructional. According to an EPA study, the Whiteman Airport is the largest source of toxic emission in Pacoima. The private airplanes that operate out of Whiteman Airport use leaded aviation fuel. A study conducted in a San Jose community living next to the Reed Hill View Airport found that children within a half mile from the airport at a blood lead level of 1.93 micrograms per deciliter. On average, I support the shutdown of the Whiteman Airport. That's the end of my comment. I will begin reading another community member's comment at the restart of the clock.

Comment 1 Read:

Hola mi nombre es Catalino. Necesitamos cerrar el aeropuerto por que no nos da ningún beneficio. Al contrario, nos perjudica y nos está enfermando el aire a causa de esto nacen niños con defectos de nacimiento personas con cancer, dolor de cabeza, plomo en la sangre, ruido y es difícil escuchar cuando alguien habla, y no se puede dormir en paz por que tiemblan las ventanas.

Hello, my name is Catalino. We need to close the airport because we get no benefit from it. On the contrary, it causes us harm and we are getting sick due to air pollution, it causes children to be born with birth defects, people with cancer, headaches, lead in blood, noise, it is difficult to listen anyone talking, and one cannot sleep well due to vibrating windows.

Comment 2 Read:

Hola mi nombre es Maria. Parece que detrás del problema del aeropuerto hay personas poderosas que usarán el aeropuerto para sus intereses personales y Pacoima es un Ciudad pobre literalmente. Ojala la comunidad de Pacoima se una y pueda remover el aeropuerto para nuestro beneficio.

Hello, my name is Maria. It seems that behind the airport issue there are powerful people that will use the airport for their personal interests, and Pacoima is literally a poor city. Hopefully, the Pacoima community will unite to remove the airport for the benefit of all.

Comment 3 Read:

Hola mi nombre es Nora por lo que estoy escuchando si no quitan el aeropuerto va haber cambios. Sin embargo, aunque los haya, la contaminación seguirá y no hay garantías que las cosas realmente mejoren.

Hello, my name is Nora. From what I am listening to, if the airport remains there will be changes. However, even if there are changes, those will not make pollution to disappear and there are no guaranties that things will improve.

Comment 4 Read:

My name is Grace. We need a movie theater, we need a bowling alley, a 99 cent Store, we need a clothing store, need restaurants, need an auditorium for karaoke to be able to sing and perform to the public for free. That is the end of my comment.

Francisco:

Hola soy Francisco apoyo cerrar el aeropuerto Whiteman. Tengo 15 años viviendo aquí en una comunidad muy cerca del aeropuerto. Es muy estresante escuchar el ruido de los helicópteros desde las 6 de la mañana y la vibración de las ventanas debido a la actividad del aeropuerto que está muy cerca.

Hello, I am Francisco. I support closing the Whiteman Airport. I have been living 15 years in a community which is very close to the airport. It is very stressful to listen to the noise of helicopters at 6 am and to the windows vibrating due to the airport activity.

Californio:

Okay. All right. Well thanks for taking the call. I've been listening to these Zoom meetings for a while now. This is like the fourth one and the airport's not broken. It's been there for 50 years and it's never really done any harm as much as Interstate five. As far as the fumes and pollution, gas is rising to the atmosphere and it's more likely to get any of that from a car. Now you don't know what the future entails, back in the thirties, General Motors closed, basically convinced the city to get rid of all the diesel, get rid of the trolley cars and get diesel buses.

We don't know if that might happen with electric planes. How do you know planes may not be electric in the future? Inclusion won't be an issue. Safety won't be an issue. Mobile planes could be available for everyone, but you really want your neighbor taking off from their own little plane from your next door, or do you want them to go to a dedicated airport? Where it's safe for planes or whatever the future may entail as far as flight. So you don't know why close

something that's not broken. Malls and apartments and retail, you could put that anywhere. But where are you going to get the property to put an airport when you realize you need it, the future, but it's closed already. I just think people have more special interest involved than actually practicality of what the airport's doing for the community. That's all I got to say.