

Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport Community Advisory Committee Meeting: Public Comments, March 24, 2022

Matthew:

Hi, good evening everyone. Matthew, local pilot who's been around Whiteman for eons. I want to thank the Public Works staff for the open house weeks ago. It was very informative. Listening that day and reading the written comments, what many of us already knew was confirmed. The community knows Whiteman airport uplifts the locals and serves as a gateway to the boundless world of aviation.

The airport is an asset the community wants to keep. The saddest thing I've heard in this process is the claim that Whiteman Airport isn't for people of color. That is absolutely not true, and it is horrid to hear said. 80 years ago, the Tuskegee Airmen were told aviation wasn't for them, that they couldn't do it. That they were told they were not smart enough. Guess what? In combat, the Tuskegee Airmen destroyed that myth, becoming a highly accomplished and highly decorated unit in World War II. The situation at Whiteman is no different. Skin color is no impediment in aviation. Not then, not now. Judging people by their race is wrong, full stop.

Veronica Padilla complained earlier about attacks on Pacoima Beautiful at the first open house meeting. I was there and I spent a fair amount of time talking with the Pacoima Beautiful staff and shedding some light on some of the issues that they've brought up and asked about, but I did not see any attacks on them going on. If they happened, I didn't see them. The two outbursts I did see were, at one point, a man shouted, "Shut it down" and made divisive comments towards attendees immediately after he'd had talked with the Pacoima Beautiful people. I had seen one of their staffers recording the tirade. A little later on, a woman wearing a Pacoima Beautiful shirt also shouted, "White male privilege" or something of that nature at a Civil Air patrolman, and it got a little heated there too.

That night there was some drama, but not too much. Certainly not as much as you might expect from a meeting with so many people and with so much rhetoric revolving around it. I would say that that town meeting that evening, it was quite a success and I think it was positive. The only critique I really have for it is regarding the post-it notes. There's no reason not to have people signing their name to these post-it notes. If people are going to express themselves, they should be putting their names to it. That's what we do in public comment. That's what people should be doing on public comments there as a matter of public record.

To comment very briefly on the matter of emergency services at Whiteman, there's a very large variety of units and groups that operate out of Whiteman Airport. Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Marshals Service. LAPD is in there every once in a while, aeromedical. A very wide variety. It is not just LA County Fire, and as we heard tonight, LA County Fire is not just on its own. They do work with Whiteman Airport. Thank you and goodnight.

Roberto:

This is Roberto. I'm the interim program manager, director, excuse me, program director for ICON CDC. We currently operate a business source organization serving hundreds of small businesses in the Pacoima Northeast San Fernando Valley.

I want to congratulate the CAC on expressing their opinion and the need for more information, and for more town halls, and for more community process. I congratulate you for being brave and willing to speak truth to power, to the board of supervisors. You need more time, to the extent that people ... We didn't even begin to know the extent of emergency operations at Whiteman, in itself speaks to the fact that there has not been enough discussion, not been enough information. Ms. Hernandez earlier brought up, asking questions that have not been answered, speak to that much more information that should be provided to this group.

All questions should be answered before any type of alternative recommendations are provided. To schedule alternative recommendations in April is really inappropriate and a rush to judgment. This should not be a predetermined process that results in predetermined answers. This should be an open process. If community members are going to spend this amount of time speaking out, participating in, and attending on conversations, then information should be available. When there's no question left unanswered, then alternative recommendations should be put on the table, and people can be looking at what Whiteman should be.

Pacoima Beautiful is an incredible organization that is committed to nothing more, nothing more than making Pacoima a better place to live for those who live there. The continuous attacks by those who have self-interests in maintaining Whiteman as an airport for their own personal use against Pacoima Beautiful is inappropriate and unwarranted. This is an organization who talks about climate change. An organization that talks about green and making Pacoima a better place and a healthier place to live for children and adults, residents and workers, and these should be acknowledged as such.

They should not be put down for simply elevating climate change, simply elevating community interests, simply elevating school children health to an important issue, even if there's an issue that is in contrary to the desire to continue to operate an airport in the middle of a community that doesn't use it. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

Cindy:

Hi. Thank you for letting me comment. I am really new to this. This is my first meeting I attended. I'm so sorry I missed the other meetings. That brings me to the first point that I'm not ... I mean, I know you guys have done a ton of outreach, but I don't think as many people who should know about this issue do know about this issue.

I'm on a neighborhood council and I'm fairly active in the community, and I just found out about these meetings and that they existed like two weeks ago. Offline, I would like to give

you guys an email address for Shadow Hills Property Owners Association, who can send out email blasts to nearly 1,000 email residents so that you can get more outreach, if that's okay.

My concern is the economic benefits that the airport does provide to us. The other issues is, there's probably I think 150 little aircraft housed or tenants at the airport. Where would those tenants move to? I assume they'd have to move to Burbank and Van Nuys, and they're already impacted airports. Is it really neighborly to force those airplanes to move to our neighbors' airports and cause them further airport-related issues?

I just think Whiteman Airport's a nice little jewel in our community. They provide a lot of great youth programs and a lot of benefits. I trust that all the pros and cons will be heavily evaluated and weighed. Anyways, I just wanted to throw my two cents in. Thank you for all your tireless work that you've put in. I'm going to go to the website and review all the meetings so that I'm more educated on the matter. That's that. Thank you.

Dave:

I don't know whether I've missed any of these meetings. I'm not a CAC member because I don't live exactly in Pacoima, but this is the first meeting where I think that people have mentioned the charge that CAC has. I want to congratulate the group on doing that because so far, all we're seeing is a huge polarization of people either for or against the airport, and there isn't any discussion of that part of the charge that says the creation of local jobs, community beneficial uses, and dedicated open space at the airport. There is space at the airport that could be utilized better than it is right now. I think anybody would admit to that, but we haven't even discussed doing that. All its been is, "Shut it down." Much of the shut it down idea has come from information that's really quite fallacious.

For example, electric aircraft are replacing aircraft that burn leaded fuel rather rapidly, particularly for a lot of the operations that happen at Whiteman, which is for training. Because right now, they only have the ability to stay on a charge for training. Leaded fuel is on its way out, and it will probably arrive at Whiteman within about two years, so the emphasis that I see too many people placing on those items are really, I think, quite wrong. I would much rather see, as we're starting to see some movement, and I hope we can move further in that direction, to how can we arrive at some sort of a compromise and utilizing space at that airport in ways that serve community needs and airport as well? Because I do think it can be done. Thank you.

James:

Okay. I just wanted to clarify a couple of things that were mentioned earlier concerning surrounding airports and then emergency operations. First, LAX, contrary to what Mr. Nelson said, does not have a curfew. The airlines choose not to fly in during the morning hours because it fits in for their maintenance needs, and because most people aren't flying in and out of the airport at that time, but there is no official curfew at LAX. Van Nuys Airport has a curfew from 10:00 p.m. till 7:00 a.m., but the airport's not closed. It's still open. Aircraft can still come in.

They just restrict operations to aircraft that produce less than 73 decibels of noise, which is a fairly high limit on noise, and most of the airplanes at Whiteman are below that.

Whiteman does have a curfew on certain operations. From 8:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m., there's to be no pattern work and there's to be no training, helicopter training flights, so that reduces, immensely, the number of aircraft that are using the airport. After about 10:00 p.m., there's hardly any air traffic in and out of the airport, and definitely after midnight there are very few aircraft that fly in and out of the airport. When they do, they're generally somebody that is departing to go someplace or somebody that's arriving from a distance. They're not flying around the airport like they do in the daytime.

As for emergency operations, we've heard LA County Fire has their facility there. LA PD does operate in and out of the airport. We've had LA City Fire in and out of there. We have Cal Fire that comes in during the fire season and operates out of there. We also have Civil Air Patrol, who engage in search and rescue activities for lost aircraft. Civil Air Patrol handles 85% of all lost aircraft searches in the country and these airplanes respond when there's a missing aircraft. They're the people who are going to find somebody that's in distress. They also look for missing hikers and they engage in disaster relief activities for FEMA and other governmental agencies. We have Angel Flight and MedEvac, and a lot of other of those types of activities going on. It's not just County Fire that does emergency ops out of the airport. Thank you.

Karina:

Hi. My name is Karina. I'm a first-generation American. I grew up right here in San Fernando Valley, Arleta/Panorama City. I'm also a single mom, and my son right now is just returning from practicing at LAB FIVE, which is in Pacoima, so this neighborhood, this area is really my backyard. After high school, seeing my parents work hard, I decided I wanted to join the Air Force, and I did that. I was a part of an air crew. During the six years that I flew on an airplane as someone that sits in the back, not a pilot, I noticed that there was not one Hispanic pilot, so I left the Air Force and I came back to the San Fernando Valley, and I actually started taking flight lessons at Vista. I'm not done, but I'm very motivated to make a difference. I think we can use that pilot, the resources to get minorities the opportunity to learn how to fly and make big careers.

Again, in the Air Force, while I was serving, not one pilot was a Latina. I really wanted to learn how to fly, so that's why I started using Vista. My son just turned eight and I plan on getting him flight lessons during the summer. I'm just really sorry that not a lot of people know about the airport, but I hope we can get more people motivated to take a part of that opportunity. Flying is such a great experience. You need to just go, get on a flight, and buy one of the lessons, or actually, I'm also connected with the San Fernando Valley Ninety-Nines women pilots group that's on the airport. The women there are very motivational. There are other women pilots there that also are single parents and they have gone very far just by becoming pilots. I just wanted to share that.

Samantha:

Hi. My name is Samantha. I actually don't live in Pacoima, but I do live in a neighborhood that is affected by the flight patterns of the planes coming out of this airport. It's become really loud in my neighborhood. I live in a great, diverse neighborhood. I love my area, but there have been constant helicopters and small planes going over my house it seems, almost every 20 minutes. We've been woken up at 2:30 a.m. by helicopters. I think finding a creative approach to the kind of noise pollution is something that I would love to work on and talk about.

I can't imagine the amount, the level of volume that the residents around the airport are suffering right now. I think it would also behoove anyone who wants to get the public involved also to include some of the neighborhoods affected, actually, by the routes of the planes and helicopters going out of the airport as well. It is a different experience. Maybe not as intense, but it has affected the quality of my life and the quality of my neighbors' lives. I would like to come up with a creative solution to mitigate the impact of this noise pollution created by the airport and the planes coming in and out of it. Thank you.

X7882:

My name is Victoria, and I live in San Fernando. I'll just preface this by saying I have three little kids in some phase of taking a bath and putting pjs on so if it's crazy in the background, I apologize for that. I wanted to start, I just wanted to share with the community that I had watched, I had seen this documentary several months ago about Charles Anderson. The first speaker actually referenced the Tuskegee Airmen. I don't know who that first speaker is. I never met him. I have no idea who he is, but what I learned is they're the first African American pilots who fought in World War II. Charles Anderson in particular was the first Black flight instructor. They are heroes. They literally helped save the world.

What really struck me was that hearing about Mr. Anderson, when he was done, when World War II was over, he went back to his community in the South, and he taught children how to fly. I would just get chills every time I think of that. Then I get saddened because I look at our community and I see people who just say, "Shut it down," regardless, without even listening to the other side. I think, why aren't we lifting up our community? Why aren't we giving our kids a chance? Because I don't think Latinos and African Americans are well-represented as pilots, and those are leadership positions. That is what I want to see. I just wanted to share that. I also wanted to say as we're ... Sorry. That's my daughter.

As we're extended this, can we also look at if this is to be shut down and be replaced, what is it going to be replaced with and how would that replacement affect pollution? If there's thousands more cars coming into that little area, how does that affect pollution? How does that construction, years and years of construction affect people living there? How does any type of high-density housing right between San Fernando Gardens, sorry, and the Pierce Street Apartments, how does that affect the community when school's out and it's super crowded?

Then I just wanted to end in saying, I was also a little saddened when I hear that the CAC and the supervisor wants to hear from the community, and then Sheila Kuehl goes and makes a motion to start the process to shut it down. That doesn't sound like listening to the community. I thought that's what she wanted to hear from. Not taking a step. When I look at the representation on the committee, I'm wondering, are they going to listen, or is just three Pacoima Beautiful? Bobby Arias has expressed he wants to shut it down. Monica Rodriguez's reps want to shut it down. Is there even enough votes to listen to the community? I hope there is. I hope we can come to something that uplifts our community and not just enriches developers. Thank you.

Teodora:

Hi, everyone. I'm Teodora. I'm a Pacoima resident here. I just wanted to agree that, yes, we definitely should be uplifting community voice, and they should be the ones to decide what goes on the property of Whiteman Airport. I'm super excited to finally reach a point in these meetings where we're discussing what that can look like. Previously, for folks who have not been as active on the CAC, the meetings have contained a lot of conversation of how to keep the airport and the amenities that serve, how to improve those amenities.

While it is important to improve amenities from the airport, noise, traffic from the airplanes as well as helicopters, it's also important to really look at the history of what this airport has done in our community. For example, the owner of this airport, the original owner, Marvin E. Whiteman, has been rumored to have, in the past, in the early stages of Whiteman Airport, engraved a fear of even stepping on top of this land that they occupy. He used to chase kids away who ventured onto the property, for example. Some of you even remember that he would fire gunshots at these youth.

When people ask why there's some hesitancy in entering this airport property, I would like for us to remember the history of racism and redlining that has taken place in our communities, and the history of genocide as well to our indigenous communities, and why this airport is located on that property, and what could have been as well, and what that future can look like if we continue to support and uplift community voices who are directly affected by this airport and its operations.

I definitely urge the Public Works to please provide transportation, if you guys have future meetings as well. Any way maybe you guys can provide that, as well as translation to your slides. In the past, I have tried to find some Spanish slides on what you guys have presented, and there's none to be found, as well as the public comments. They're not translated in Spanish, but I do see Spanish comments translated in English. That concerns me because this is a high-concentrated Latino community, and we are very diverse as well apart from that, so providing translation is very important.

I also want to amplify the need to really, really think about how we can start implementing noise canceling windows and provide some type of way to recover the folks who

have already implemented those windows due to the fact that this airport continues to provide air pollution, and noise, and wakes them up on the days that they should be resting. I, myself experience having to deal with the noise pollution and it's exhausting, definitely. I can't wait to have more conversations with our communities, despite our perspectives because we are one in the community of Pacoima, and we can do that as well. Thank you all for your time.

Leon:

I didn't actually prepare for this, but I thought I would jump in there after I heard some comments and just give you my angle.

I happen to be African American. I actually live in Van Nuys. I am a private pilot. I've been at this airport, Whiteman Airport for about eight and a half years. There was a young lady, a mother that was dealing with her children a little bit. That's lovely. She made some comments about Latinas, and what not, and the Air Force. I have to say, regarding aviation, there's not a lot of representation for African American folks. I remember when I was down in Riverside, lived down there years ago. My grandfather used to take me to the airport. We'd sit under the tower, at the time you could do that. You can almost do that here at Whiteman, there's areas that you can, out front there in the observation area, but I'd listen to the airplanes, and I would... Because they would display, or you could hear the communications on the outside speaker on the side of the tower. And I would... I didn't think that was something that I could actually do, but it's something that I did. I moved to the Los Angeles area, I studied, got a job, what not, and I never thought I would...

I rented airplanes for many years out of Van Nuys. Then after a while, I saved up my pennies and I was actually able to buy a plane. So, I can say that it's... I'm definitely not a rich guy. I used to work for the County of LA as a Communications Technician. I'm still working after all these years. I just decided to put my money where I can. I don't have a fancy car; I got a 2005 Yukon. But I'm saying this because the folks that are in this, whether they'll be Hispanic or whatever, Latina or Latinos, whatever the case may be, whatever your race, your gender, whatever, this, and I will echo what someone said, this is a jewel. This is your community. Yes, this is also your airport. This is a resource. Not everybody can say, "Hey, in my town, I have the small community airport."

Now, this is different than LAX. This is different than Van Nuys, which is a large corporate airport. They all have their purposes, but this is unique. This is a small community airport. Now, whatever your background is, your gender, your race, this is yours. And the people that live around here, this is your airport. If you have family members that are interested or that may be interested, this can be the place where they will learn to have a career for life. So, this is a jewel. When airports disappear, they don't come back. So, embrace this. This is yours, and this is a resource. That's all.

Mark:

Thank you everybody for having this meeting. I'm just going to make some points to fill in some of the gaps from earlier. Number one, I heard somebody say that Mr. Whiteman is racist. Wow. Marvin Whiteman actually taught kids how to fly once the air park turned into an airport. And that was after he got back from fighting in the war. He was a war hero too. So, I find it very upsetting that we would be speaking ill of the dead like that, number one. Number two, County Fire helicopters are by far the loudest aircraft at that airport, okay? And if you close the airport, let's say you close the airport, they're not going away. That's not going to solve your noise problem. All airports are noisy. The airport was there before the community was built around it. So, let's try to be accurate with our data. If I get something wrong, I'd like somebody to let me know. But let's try to be accurate with our data. Let's not start using the word Whiteman as a reason to close an airport like this. Okay?

I don't know why we're talking about what we're going to do with this land and why we're excited about it before the CAC committee has even finished its job. This is supposed to be an objective exploration of this airport, whether it should be kept, improved or closed down. The City Council has made it very obvious what they want to do. They voted on this in December, before we even finished this process. For a lot of us who support the airport, this feels very biased. It really does. And then lastly, has anybody visited the youth groups that come out of the airport? There's five or six incredible programs. They're building an airplane; they're teaching kids how to fly for free. So, could they do better with outreach? Sure. We could all do better. But throwing the baby out with the bath water, closing a community airport, come on. Let's be reasonable. Let's talk about how to repair the things that aren't working and be proud of our community airport. Thank you very much.

Juan:

Thank you. My name is Juan. I would like to thank you all for your time today. I am a proud supporter of the shutdown of Whiteman Airport. Whiteman Airport plays a part in the structural racism that continues to burden the health, peace and wellbeing of Pacoima residents, and it's an insult to the community to shy away from that. Now, this airport is being referenced as a jewel and a resource, but where is the data that the airport is investing in the community beyond those youth programs that as mentioned earlier, one of those programs only has one Pacoima resident. I was able to attend Thursday's CAC meeting and experience the many concerns that were discussed today. No proper translation was provided, and many of the information presented was biased. I am glad that the CAC will take steps to shift meeting approach in a way that will provide community and opportunity to voice their opinion. It is time to acknowledge the community's lived experience with this toxic Airport. It is time to provide them with noise canceling windows and provide them with the proper living environment. Thank you for your time.

Elisa:

Hello, my name's Elisa, and I would like to thank everyone that took the time to be at this meeting. And I would just like to say, thank you Bobby Arias for going to the Airport with an open mind and not going there and saying, "I'm going to close it, or I want to keep it open." You went with an open mind. And I wish that everybody that's on this CAC would have the opportunity to go and visit these fine programs that they offer to the youth. We cannot close this Airport. Why? Because it's a FEMA Airport. There's an emergency here, like at the 96 Northridge earthquake, we're safe. Why? Because we're next to the Airport. We cannot close it. We cannot take away the opportunity for the kids in our community to become a pilot or become a technician there or pilot, anything. Those are good jobs with good health insurance, with good retirement funds.

Why would we want to take an opportunity away like that from kids? Let's stop arguing and just find a common ground. It's a pride and joy for me. And the planes that are flying at night, those are the County helicopters. I do agree with everyone saying that's on the CAC that these meetings should last longer and not make a quick decision. Thank you for bringing that up. But the same way that we're talking about the Airport not doing proper outreach, we're not doing proper outreach because not a lot of people in our community, in our district know about these meetings. So, we need to hold all of us accountable. But I also thank you guys for bringing these meetings together, because of that, now everybody is getting to know about Whiteman Airport and all the great things that they offer. So, thank you, and thank you to everyone that's here. But let's stop fighting and just find a common ground. Let's think about our youth. And when we talk about data and pollution, let's make sure it's the correct one, and we're not just taking it out from the air. Have a blessed night, thank you.

Norma:

Hello everyone, my name is Norma, and I am from the area of San Fernando Valley. I really believe that we need to work on the outreach to bring more members of the different communities surrounding the Whiteman. If the Whiteman gets shut down, we know that the airplanes will have to move to Burbank and Van Nuys, possibly. A few years ago, the Burbank Airport was having discussions about rerouting the flights to San Fernando Valley, to the Northeast, and Pacoima Beautiful and other active members of the neighboring communities were present to oppose that change. And the main argument was that the Northeast is already suffering from pollution in many ways and adding more flights would just add more burden to our communities. At that meeting, we ask that the task force keep in mind that we should all share the burden between all the communities and not just send this burden to the San Fernando Valley. So, I ask that in future meetings, we invite the community of Burbank as well as all the surrounding communities, such as Van Nuys, Arleta, San Valley, including the Santa Clarita, and in general, all the surrounding areas.

I would also like to ask for written transparent facts from both sides. If we are going to be using the health issues as a way of saying that that's the reason for shutting down the

airport, then we should provide documentation showing that the people who have been struggling with health issues have been struggling for years, their medical records probably, and not just all of a sudden when the CAC meetings began, then a lot of people started getting sick. We need to show documentation. My hope is that with these meetings, this becomes an eye opener for the Whiteman, for them to do better outreach, because I believe their programs are wonderful and they're necessary for our community. And they should reach out to schools, all the schools in the areas, the parks, and the community colleges. We know that there are community colleges established in many communities. And just because they're there, it doesn't necessarily mean that the people living in those communities attend those colleges. So, if only one person goes to this programs from the area of Pacoima, that shouldn't be enough reason to shut down the airport. I want to keep the airport. Thank you.

Phone call x3917:

I'm a community member. I grew up in Pacoima and later on in Sylmar, so I've seen Whiteman my entire life, driven by it. And I really appreciate hearing the comments from folks that have been able to answer and to the aviation industry and gotten jobs, especially as minorities. But I do recall it's very few folks, and this Airport has been around for decades, and I don't see just a huge amount of pilots and aviation programs that have really been highlighted throughout the community that have really been able to bolster community and youth involvement in aviation. It seems like if it's something that you found your way into, then Whiteman has been a resource for that. But I think as a true community partner, I would likely see Whiteman being more supportive of having more pilots of color and really amplifying that in the community. But we see just a few of them coming out and I don't really see the big push in actually having people from community getting into this industry and benefiting from the types of jobs that are available in this industry.

And I want to amplify the need to really consider how it impacts the residents that are actually living in the community and could possibly benefit from these jobs but haven't in the decades that the Airport has been functioning. And the community did not develop around the Airport, there was an existing community already before it was turned into an Airport. And I really support continuing this process, including as many community members as possible to really envision what we want this Airport to look like collectively and more benefits that we can have, that if there's such strong opposition from the community, we need to listen to it. If people really feel so strongly about this, we shouldn't see that as a type of attack or retaliation, but really listen, when people are raising their voices. And like people said, reach a compromise that we can still keep some of the emergency and County functions from the Airport, but also looking at how can we utilize this space to really bring more environmental benefits to an area that is really heavily burdened by multiple polluting factors. And we need to consider the health and safety of community members. So, I really should- (Speaking time was up.)

Thomas:

Okay. I'm concerned that I keep hearing about lack of diversity. I even hear terms as strong as structural racism. What I would really like to do is invite everyone within earshot of this, particularly the CAC members, to drop by Whiteman Airport this Saturday morning, the Experimental Aircraft Association is doing their monthly Young Eagles program. We have approximately 70 youth signed up for introductory airplane flights. Many of the youth actually get to fly the airplane, because many of our pilots are flight instructors. And I'm making this invitation at this time, knowing that you know we could not have stacked the deck in any way. And I would really like for all of you to come see who shows up from the youth, and you'll see a great amount of diversity. You'll see Latino, you'll see Black, you'll see White, you'll see Asians, we're all there. So please come see what we're actually doing at the airport.

And I thank you for the opportunity to point out this, because I recommend that you gather some data firsthand. And by doing that, you'll see that all youth have a fair opportunity to learn aviation. And I'll also point out every Saturday afternoon, at two o'clock we meet and have youth working to build an airplane together. So, in any event, please come see for yourself, make your own independent judgment about whether the activities are somehow biased not towards people of color and so forth. Please come look for yourself. I thank you very much for this opportunity to express this invitation to come. I'll say it. Do your homework and come see what's really going on at the airport. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Shellie:

Yeah, someone mentioned earlier that a camera was present at one of these community meetings, and I don't know who it was and who was taking pictures, but let it be known that the airport people did not call the media to cover the anti-airport so-called press conference that was held by our council person. And we didn't call the media when there was a protest against the airport. So, when you pick out certain things that are happening, you have to look internally and figure out, is that fair for one side and not for the other side? That was one comment. The other comment was, my husband in 1962, learned how to fly an airplane at Whiteman Airport in the Airplane Aviation Explorers Program, back in the day. We still run that program and it's a very low-cost airplane learning experience. We teach kids to fly. We don't discriminate on color; they just call us. They're usually referred by the Boy Scout office because we are part of the Boy Scouts of America. And we're forced to do youth training program so that there's no funny business going on or whatever.

And so, when they say I never heard about it, well, I don't know how these other people are hearing about it, but we get calls daily. And we can't possibly teach 500 kids how to fly, it's limited. So, it's just the ones that are really interested that decide to come week after week and learn and want to do it. We're all volunteers. We're old people, we're volunteers. And we don't have time to go to school to school, to school, to get more kids. We have plenty the way it is. So, I don't... If you're not interested in something, you're not going to go see it. If you're interested in something, you'll go there and find out about it. If there was a store that sold diabetic

supplies, I would be interested to go there. If I wasn't diabetic, I wouldn't go there. So, you just have to... These comments, these comments that are being are just so close-minded and feeble, I think. And that's all I have to say. Thank you very much.

Eli:

Good evening. My name is Eli. And I must say, I'm probably a little partial as it relates to Whiteman Airport in the sense that I have a grandson who was a baby who was airlifted via the services that come out of Whiteman. They had the helicopter that was set down right there at Hansen Dam, and they took my grandson over to the children's hospital downtown. And I think we kind of forget about the jewel and the value of the safety and the... You know, I heard the guy say something about the search and rescue, the medevac, the hikers rescue, the missing air crafts and things like that. And I think we forget about all of the things that these services that are provided, especially along the foot heels here, back behind Lake View Terrace, Kagel Canyon and those places. So, I think we need to consider that. He mentioned something about the helicopters and the missions that they take every day. And I see that the helicopter every morning coming back too, right when I'm out in the morning, going for my morning walk. I think those services are very valuable, and I sure hope that we don't lose that.

I would also like to say that I sure hope that we would consider all of the input, all the local communities around in the Northeast Valley. I'm the President of the Lake View Terrace Improvement Association, and I sure hope that all of the surrounding local communities also will be heard. And lastly, I would like to thank all of the CAC members. I came a little late to some of the meetings, I have been attending most of the meetings. I know it's been going on for a while, but I know it's a commitment of your time and your commitment, but I do pray that each member do take this task seriously.

And this is a decision that will certainly impact the community, and so I hope that this will impact the community in a positive way. So those are my thoughts regarding, and so again, I'd like to thank all of the CAC members as well. But please take this serious. And I hope that you listen to all the facts, like Mr. Nelson said, and I would've like to thank also the CAC committee also for extending the time in order to gather all the facts and analyze all of the input and gather all of the facts before a decision is made. I think April or June is pretty fast. I'm glad that it was extended to June, at least. And hopefully all of the facts will be able to be gathered and a good decision will be able to be made. So that's my comment. Thank you.

Josie:

Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm not technical, so Josie and I belong to the Neighbor Council, so I forgot to change my icon. But anyway, I just wanted to say that I appreciate all the outreach that you have tried to do. Again, but I think it needs to be a lot more. And my suggestion also is, can you reach out to the Neighborhood Councils? They will help you to spread the word and to invite people to join these meetings. Second of all, I wanted to say that if a motion was made to shut down the Airport, why do we bother with these meetings? Because it

looks like their mind has been made up already to close the Airport. So, I just wanted to share that because it makes no sense that you will continue to have meetings up to the end of the year, and a motion has been made either by Sheila Kuehl or Monica Rodriguez or whoever. I think it will be a waste of our time, thank you very much.