

Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport: Meeting 17, January 26, 2023

Public Comment for Agenda Item #4 CAC Motions: Recommendations for Board of Supervisors to Consider

Elisa:

I will vote for keeping the airport open. The reason: Why take so many great opportunities from young children, especially as we live in a low-income community. Now are we also going to tell LAX not to fly around here? Now we have enough parks. We have David Gonzalez, we have Hansen Dam. Miss Padilla from the legal said that they make a lot of noise. But what about the air freshener company that's across the street from those apartments? They have semis driving by, they make noise, they shake windows. Not only that, but the air freshener company, it's going to start having a brand new company in San Fernando across the street from where they do tar. So now it's really going to be polluting. So if we're going to go there, let's pick on everybody, let's be equal, but let's not take the opportunity from these kids. I vote to keep it open.

Santos:

I'm here as a Pacoima youth. Although I acknowledge that the Whiteman airport serves as a crucial component in emergency relief infrastructure, I would like to place a huge emphasis for the need of immediate relief for the community that has lived around the airport in the form of firstly establishing a flight curfew to mitigate the constant noise presence originated from the air travel making use of the airport. I will also ask for a ban on the use of lead-based aviation fuel as it plays a huge factor in the degradation of the Pacoima community members' health. In addition, I would call for the county to invest in installing noise-canceling windows to the residents living within 10 miles of the airport as they are the ones that had to face the brunt of all the noise and air pollution emanating from the airport.

Gary:

I find this motion to be a two-edged sword. And I find that, respectfully, to be absurd, in that regard. On the one hand, if everything goes along fine, everything's fine. One incident, one irregularity, one safety issue, and you're going to shut them down? This airport is 76 years old. How do you expect nothing ever to happen? It's called life and you have freeway accidents, you have hikers, you have homes burning down. Are we going to make a law based on a singular incident throughout our communities? This has been a fine airport for 76 years, and to shove everything on Van Nuys. What about the safety issue that you have no conscience in considering to that community?

Eve:

My name is Eve. I am an attorney as well as a pilot and ask me which was harder to attain. Far harder to become a pilot than to become an attorney. And I say that because pilots are part of the community, we care about the community. Pilots would not be there if we didn't care about the community. I believe the motion, it's a good start and it's easy to criticize. It's a good start. And I applaud the efforts, I do think that you can improve upon it. Ask for the input of the pilots, we're happy to help with the community in mind and ensuring that local control of the land be kept has to be a priority, because otherwise you won't have community members who actually care about the (inaudible).

Thomas:

Bobby Arias said something I think is very, very useful. He is one of the CAC members who has come to the airport and seen the youth activities actually in progress. The outreach may have missed the target to some extent. That is the basis of the training mecca that he envisions. And if we were not to have the airport, the seven different groups who do youth outreach and youth activities, it would no longer be available to the Pacoima youth. Then speaking to what Yvonne said, federal money is available to do mitigations. The excellent report, Section N draft recommendations, mitigates almost all of the problems that are brought up. The RFP for unleaded aviation fuel has already been released and the unleaded fuel will be going away. And doing the rest of the items in Section N of the report would certainly solve the doubt.

Gloria:

I am a student at Glendale Community College. I would really support keeping Whiteman open. I am the student president of the GCC Aviators Club. And we do our training flight lab at Whiteman. I would be very sad if they were to say Oh, because of this one incident or that one incident, that it will be closed and not used and then turned into a giant auto mall or some other profit thing. I lived in Reseda my whole life. I'm 53 and I'm sad that people are so polarized to both sides. If we can just work together, we can make things happen and not just point fingers. Please keep the airport open.

Lisa:

I'm the president of Aviation Explorers Inc, a nonprofit and aviation explorer post 747 lead advisor. I got my private pilot at Whiteman airport. I tried Van Nuys, it just, it was a very sluggish process. I came to Whiteman; I got my instrument rating. I'm a commercial pilot, and I'm getting my CFI shortly. And I've been at Whiteman, donating my time, and giving back to the youth of this community, Pacoima and anywhere, our program. We are open to a vast geographical area, just a large area of LA. And we are we're here to help the kids. Please don't shut us down. Because we're making women pilots. And as you know, only 7% of pilots in the world are women. And we're going to help reverse to get more women back in the workforce for aviation occupations. But more than that, we're helping kids stay off the streets, say no to drugs and move forward in their life with a successful occupation.

Nato:

I'm a pilot. And I got my pilot's license here at Whiteman airport. I own a building in Sun Valley, I ran a construction company for 30 years, and I bought that building because it was close to the airport. I think there's a way for the community and the airport to work together to turn the airport into a mecca of training, of having things that people can go there for, shopping even. So I think the community in the airport just have to work together and come up with that. And if there's money available for mitigation of issues like noise and things like that, it should be used. Anyway, that's pretty much what I have to say. I'm for keeping the airport open. Thank you very much.

William:

I live within a mile of the airport, I would suggest closing it down because it does provide health issues and also the airplanes, the emissions and everything. But what I would suggest is, I'm

from Chicago, and in Chicago, they had a Naval Air Base, which they called the Glen, and they turned it into a new housing development. I feel that if you tore that down, kept the area for the public services, and then develop that into an upscale neighborhood or whatever to something measured it to the market. You would provide housing, you'd provide construction jobs, you could build a mall and everything and education and everybody would benefit from that tax money that would come in from such a development. I mean, you have 100 something acres. Get Lennar in there, get the Toll Brothers and people like that and then you're going to create wealth. They created something in the north shore in Glenview, which police stations benefited, the fire department and the whole community. So I would just say closing it because it's not going to keep not affecting the community. Thank you.

Rob:

First of all, I want to thank the entire committee and the people in the community. This has not been an easy process. And so I really want to express my appreciation. I've been a pilot for nearly 40 years. I'm a professor of aviation at Glendale Community College, which teaches students to fly in college-owned airplanes at Whiteman. And when I own an airplane, I kept it a Whiteman as well. At one time, the San Fernando Valley was home to 13 airports. Today there are three. Burbank, for its part, focuses on air carriers, corporations and charter. The remaining two serve a valley population and, if it were its own city, would be the fifth largest city in the US. There's a real need for the airport. There's also a real need for it to live in harmony, as much as we can get, with the community. I would love to see the mitigations. The people at the airport want to do their part to be part of the community. But we all want a safe, quiet and friendly neighbor. We all do. And I urge keeping the airport open but I want to see the mitigations as well. Thanks.

Jesus:

I live in this this community, I live a block way from the runway. And I'm sorry, Veronica, but you know I almost got into the red incident because the last accident there was my in-laws involved. But I live in this community, I'd say leave the airport open because bringing somebody in without a blueprint of what you're going to create - don't even close it. We have been there. My son just signed for being a pilot. And without this piece, you know without the airport? You don't live here, Monica doesn't live here. Why are you guys tried to make a change? What you guys thought? We asked you to clean the city you don't clean it. So what are you talking about? I asked many times; I have been to the council many times in the city.

Loyce:

Mr. Nelson, thank you for putting your item on the agenda timely. That's important. We came here because this item was on the agenda. And then to add one to it, at this point in time, isn't fair to everybody because they may have wanted to have spoken on that. You talk about housing on that property. You got a train that goes by there 24 hours a day. I live two miles from it. And I hear that train during the daytime, during the nighttime. I hear of helicopters. We've got a freeway there. It's not the only thing. We live in a city. There's noise. It's important for this community to have this airport for emergency purposes. And that's the whole valley, not just Pacoima. We're all united. So thank you and I hope you vote to keep it open. Thank you.

Victoria:

Okay, good evening. I agree that it is so important that we respect how the community feels about Whiteman Airport. And we know how the majority of the community feels. Every single neighborhood council in the Northeast Valley has voted to keep Whiteman Airport open. Pacoima Neighborhood Council voted almost unanimously to keep Whiteman open. And I'm going to note that committee member Charles Nelson recused himself from that vote, which I thought was really ethical, and committee member Veronica Padilla-Campos put on a PowerPoint presentation to try to convince them to close it. Arleta, Sun Valley, Mission Hills, Sunland Tujunga, Panorama City and the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils voted to keep it open. Now it has never been without conditions. 100% we need the noise canceling windows. Now we need the programs expanded and that money needs to come from the county or however they get it. We can't just keep telling the airport to do it. We need to get that done.

Rebekah:

I'd like to thank the committee members for their hard work as someone who's been on public committees, I know all the challenges. But first and foremost, I chose to and my husband and I chose to purchase our home in the flight path of Whiteman airport, within blocks. We moved there in 2017. I grew up around aviation, I cannot be a pilot. But I know the importance of having that space and those staging areas. And the fact that we are down to three airports in the Valley with the dangers of fire, flood and earthquake, and we have one that would be immediately available to turn around into a safety zone, is vitally important. Secondly, those mitigations are super important and whatever path that needs to take to get that information out. It needs to come. I've seen it fix other neighborhoods. I grew up in Chicago myself with the trains, and I'm more afraid of a car crashing into my house than a plane. Thank you. Keep the airport open.

Steve:

Hi there, glad we had a chance to get together and exchange opinions. I'm in favor of keeping the airport open. I'm a nurse. I'm a former Army nurse. I'm a former Air Force medic. That airport in the case of natural disaster is gold. You have an area where you have potential for putting mass casualties. You have the ability to be able to fly in and out to get wounded, to get supplies because I wasn't here at the time of the Northridge quake. But I saw that at that time, roads were out of commission and people could not get to the help in short order. I think it'd be extremely short sighted for the long haul to remove this airport because where we live in the valley, it's not a question of if, but when, we're going to have another natural disaster. And we're going to need to scramble relief. Thank you

Matthew:

I've spoken in a lot of these meetings. I'm a Whiteman pilot and a frequent user for the airport. I do advocate for keeping the airport. It is an unparalleled public safety asset. It also does education. And what we are hearing when they say Oh, shut it down, we'll put in all this land development. They're not just advocating thousands of new homes in your neighborhood. They're also advocating overcrowding your schools, putting thousands more cars on your streets, and all the pollution that comes with that. They're doing nothing about the issues that have plagued the community such as homelessness, crime, work. And you know, Veronica just talked about her motion. And she submitted that on November 18, 2020. Before the CAC was

established, I have it right here if you'd like to look. And you know, she's not in it for a park. And we have that on paper. So, you know, that's that. Thank you.

Dave:

Just before this meeting opened, I went to change.org website. There are two petitions there. For people wanting to close the airport, the signatures total 4,300. There are two petitions that are also for people supporting the airport. Those signatures total 8,043. So outside of this room, there are a lot of people who are almost two to one in favor of keeping the airport open. In terms of their giving free rides to the kids, we've been doing it for 30 years, this Young Eagles program has been active at Whiteman. This coming Saturday, 13 kids are registered from the city of Los Angeles, 22 are registered from Pacoima. So, it's hard to tell me that we are not serving the local community. Thank you.

James:

I'd like to thank Mr. Nelson for his motion. I believe he was trying to use the wisdom of Solomon and solve everybody's issues here. And to a degree, I believe you hit it on the head. Specifically to the motion, you move that it stay open, and that they proceed with the recommendations that were delineated in the studies, in the evaluations, which include the mitigations that Ms. Mariajimenez is asking about when she discussed it. She wanted to take the open or close issue out of the motion. The reality is the airport needs to remain open for what she wants to happen. The money is available but the funding that she discussed gets funneled through the FAA and with the conditions the FAA puts in place, but I believe more clarity on your motion would make it an outstanding motion. Thank you.

Irma:

I've been living here since I was nine since I came from Mexico. Just having the airport gave me something my imagination of becoming someone, even here in Pacoima. Now you close it down. Are you going to shut down the train that goes by there? Are you going to shut down all the big rigs that come from up there? All the companies right there in San Fernando? Most importantly, what the chief has shared with us when there's been fires here at the mobile homes in Sylmar, the fires down in the mountains, especially here. They're very essential not to mention that the special program that we have that when there's the National Disaster somewhere else, we send out from here, from Pacoima. And it's just something that I feel proud of. But closing it down, it doesn't make sense, creating more projects (1 minute speaking time up).

Kim:

Hi, my name is Kim. I'm in a Valley boy, my entire life grew up here lived here for a very bad stint up in college in Northern California. But it's an exciting time in aviation, as any enthusiast could possibly tell you. The hundred low lead's going away so leaded aviation fuel is going to be a bygone issue coming up. Electric aviation is taking off like there's no tomorrow, please excuse the pun I didn't intended it. To shut down this airport at this time as be shutting down the dreams of many people kids learning the aviation people not just learning to fly but learning to repair and even make their own aircraft. It would be a mistake to shut down this asset as other people have said before. Aviation is a beautiful dream. We've gone from so many airports to so few. To shut this down would be a mistake. And please keep it open.

Roberto:

Good evening, I am Roberto. I am managing director of ICONC CDC operating here for business for the city of Los Angeles in the Valley. I wish to thank the members of the CAC for your commitment and hard work. Members of the community, community-based organizations who have attended these meetings and even the many small plane owners who utilize Whiteman airport on a regular basis. All who live near, work near and, yes, fly from Whiteman deserve to be heard as the future Whiteman airport. But at the end of the day, the question you must answer, the recommendation must make is the best and most productive use of 200 acres of land in the middle of a job-starved, open space deficient, lousy retail Pacoima, minus the fire facility because we need to keep that, a private plane airport that mostly serve 600 plane owners.

Whiteman Airport runways are substandard by FAA requirements and encompass residential areas in its parameters. Easy access for plane owners is not a reason to continue to endanger local residents. Almost 200 acres of land exist that can be better used for Parks and Recreation, affordable housing, etc. Thank you.

Walter:

*I want to start off by briefly acknowledging the community members who have come here and have spoken out against the airport. I know that speaking truth to power isn't easy, or that public speaking isn't comfortable, or that this time is inconvenient for a lot of folks. And that a lot of folks haven't done something like this before. That is a fact, especially from this community. I graduated from Brown University and Northwestern law. I've spoken to the CAC members before. Now I'm here because I'd like to speak about two quick matters. First, the constant disrespect that we've seen by folks who are in favor of the airport. How can you convince community members that you care about us? I had a gentleman over here cough when the councilman spoke and said bulls**t. A gentleman over there, who's picking up his water bottle, said that the gentleman over here should go back to Chicago. That is unacceptable. We demand environmental justice; we demand equal treatment.*

William:

I'm a pilot and aircraft owner at Whiteman airport. And I'm here to speak truth to real estate developers. On the motion by Mr. Nelson, first of all, thank you. The one thing that I would like you to amend or change on that motion is upon any new evidence of operational inefficiencies or public safety by San Fernando Road by San Fernando Gardens, by the train tracks by the freeways because if you're going to hold the airport to those standards, you should hold all the other dangers to the community that take far more lives to the same standard. On the subject of outreach that has been brought up both in this motion and elsewhere, you guys want to punish the airport for simply not having a PR budget or an advertising budget. I'm sorry, we're all volunteers. We put all our money into the kids programs. So we will do better advertising, but don't say that we're not outreaching.

John:

I've been in the mental health field since I was 22 years old. I've worked with a lot of kids and in that time, I've seen a lot of kids that disappear into the abyss, because they had nothing to attach themselves to or define themselves by. And I'm also a licensed pilot, and I can tell you that the level of commitment it takes to become one lays a bedrock of confidence that finds its way in

every other aspect of your life. And these kids I see at these open houses, they're hungry for that. They desperately desire some way of defining themselves and this is a golden opportunity. I would hate to see this airport closed. And by the way, I know people in New Jersey who have heard of Pacoima, you know why? Because it has an airport. It defines the community.

Joshua:

Hi, everybody, thank you so much for coming out this evening. I'm a student with GCC and our hangar is located at Whiteman Airport. I think it's been such a tremendous opportunity to be able to partake in reaching for my pilot's license. And I wish for a future where my daughter will be able to grow up and pursue that as well. Right now she wakes up every morning, and we live under a glide path and she looks up at the sky and says "airplane" and she spots them before we do. I think it's so important to consider the children and keep the airport open in that regard conditionally. I believe that the community does deserve noise mitigation. And on a federal level, they absolutely deserve that. So I think that Mr. Nelson's motion is excellent, but also incomplete in that the airport should remain open conditionally, so long as the desires of the community are met in that regard, because I don't think that more housing or a shopping mall is the solution that anybody's really after. Thank you.

Aliyah:

I am a pilot, a general aviation pilot. I also study aviation science, and I am also a Latina, and Pacific Islander woman. And aviation is opening up to all groups whether you're wanting to join the Black Pilots of America, Women in Aviation International, Latino Pilot Association. I am proof that there's a way to bridge that gap. It would be very unfortunate for people like me, who have been open to this community if we were to be one-sided. It does not need to be a win lose situation. It is premature to go and vote at this time rather than the community and the committee coming together and compromising and collaborating. It seems like it has to be one way or the other and I firmly believe we should keep the airport open but I think we need to look at the needs of the people. And it is doable to have aviation be inclusive for everybody. Thank you.

David:

I lived with Pacoima all my life. For 60 years the airport has never been an issue until now. There's no need to re-envision it. In the 1950s the Army Corps of Engineers decided to pave the bottom of the Los Angeles River. Well, now that turned out to be a bad idea because that water should go into the ground, not the ocean. In the 30s, voters lobbied the Los Angeles council people to get rid of the electric rail and put in diesel buses. Well, now that was a bad idea. Now we're going back to electric rail. Closing something that's not broken is the desire of special outside interests and have nothing to do with the community, nothing, it's power, corruption and greed. What did Jose Huizar get convicted for? Taking bribes from developers. That's corruption, because of his greed, because he had the power to do so. Power, corruption and greed wants to close the Pacoima airpark. Thank you.

Brian:

Good evening committee members. My name is Brian, district director representing Congressman Tony Cardenas. I'd like to thank the committee for listening to the community's input regarding the future of Whiteman Airport. Thank you, especially, to Pacoima Beautiful, all

the community advocates for your leadership, for advocating for a safe and healthy community. When considering your final vote for recommendation to the LA County Board of Supervisors regarding the future of Whiteman airport, please listen to the community, listen to the residents. But listen to the voices that the advocates are elevating, the folks that couldn't make it here because they had to work, the folks that didn't find out about this meeting. Listen to the community of Pacoima. Pacoima residents are disproportionately impacted by several health and safety factors, such as poor air quality and, literally, planes which have falling in our community.

To the community members present, I reassure you that the Congressman will continue to work with you to make sure that we continue to hold the FAA accountable. The congressman's office will be here for you to make sure that you are heard and represented. Make the right decision, raise the voice and elevate the voice for those of our community.

Kyler:

I keep hearing this recurring theme that one of the most important concerns is health and pollution. And I'm a big environmental advocate, big believer in environmental justice but I'm also a kind of a facts and numbers sort of guy. So a bunch of groups have been pushing this narrative that's you know, millionaires and private jets flying in here but exactly zero private jets fly in. It's all foreign six-cylinder piston engines, pretty much the same thing as the four- and six-cylinder piston engines and the cars in the parking lot right now. So, if you look over the last few years, average daily takeoffs at Whiteman are somewhere around 265 takeoffs and landings per day, the I-5 at Terra Bella: 307,000 per day, 118 at San Fernando: 164,000, 210 at Osborn: 129,000. So 600,000 plus per day compared to 265. So if you don't mention, not the surface streets, not including the massive power plant down the street, the asphalt plant, the high emission semis that are on those highways, but the airport accounts for somewhere around point .0004% of vehicle passes per day.

Sonia:

I've talked in one of the other meetings and I was discussing the fact that I'd like the airport to stay open for training for young youth in our community. I know that some of the members mentioned that. There hasn't been any outreach. I've noticed that some of the members of the committees here haven't reached out and there hasn't been a lot of good faith. But I do hope that the mitigation measures are taken up immediately. And it's sad that a lot of the committee members have made up their mind. I know there was a conversation of truth to power, but power is sitting here right here. And most of the community actually wants the airport to stay and not have these outside interests deciding for us.

Eusebio:

If you spoke Spanish, you will know what that sounds like. I was born in Pacoima in 1972. So I've been a member of the community. I bought a house on Hybrid Street in Sylmar. I went to Michigan College. I went to Telfair Elementary. So I am the community. So when people say that the community doesn't support this, it's nonsense. I didn't see you at my meeting where I mentor kids for free on my dime on Monday nights. I didn't see you there. Yeah, well, he said he went to the airport, and he's still didn't see any kids. Well, here I am at Gallup on Monday night and we do service kids. Right? Okay. And so, the whole day is like, Yes, I love you. I love Nelson. I love

this emotion when he tries some stuff out. But I think once we do that, I think it'll be a very great motion. Thank you.

Jennifer:

Hi, my name is Jennifer. I come in as a tax professional, as a CPA. I've worked out of the west side and have been able to work on tax returns on aviation in particular. It'd be great to see where the 60 million goes as far as the budgets are concerned, whether or not they are to professionals or budgets really beautify Pacoima. As well, I do tax work here. The thing is the disparity between the community and the government, to be able to beautify that together and open up opportunities here instead of the 2.7 that I have read, would allow some kind of harmony. So it'd be great to see some kind of transparency in where the figure of the money goes through here, in Pacoima, despite the property taxes that are being paid. Where are those really going? If there is some kind of money that is generated here and revenues? If you do shut it down, there's no more 60 million. If there a 60 million, there's some kind of budget that can be made to marry between the community and the airport.

Pasan:

No, a minute's not really enough to really talk about all the issues, but just want to address a couple of things. If you want to re-envision Whiteman, you should look up the issue with Meigs Field in Chicago. I know we had another opposite end view of it. But the mayor went in and tore up the runway, and it was going to be a park and this beautified place but didn't really go anywhere. So yeah, look that up. The other issue about not providing anything for youth. I'm an example of what they did provide. Young Eagles fly when I was 14, which inspired me. I went on a flight with Lewin who's actually here. And aviation really inspired me and there's Penny and Justin. I rent airplanes for my fly out of Whiteman. There's a fire department that flies out of there for any kind of rescue, hikers lost, accidents on the freeway to get people help and everything that they need. So the airport needs to stay open. It's a vital part. And the one thing is that the most important street in a town is the runway at the airport. So thank you.

Esmeralda:

I've lived in Pacoima for the past 21 years. As a community, I think the community has more power than outsiders. And that's why I'm here to support the shutdown of Whiteman Airport. Why? Because our land in all these pollutions that be living in our community that we have to breathe every single day. My son, he has asthma, and he is not the only person who has respiratory problems. All these people, they want the airport open. It's because they're outsiders. They don't have to deal with the noise, with the pollution. Most of the people that are in favor to keep it open, they don't live here. They use those more than 180 acres for a hobby. And I think it's time for the community to step forward and do what is right. Shut down the airport for the better environment and then use more than 180 acres for something that a community can have access.

Teodora:

I want to thank you all for your time. It has been a very long process. I have been involved with the CAC as a community member since the beginning. And I want to say that this motion is an injustice to our community. This time committed, these public comments that are opposed to a closure, have a lack of respect to our members, a lack to our public health, a lack to our mental

health. We have a lot of health disparities here in Pacoima. CalEnviro screen, as you may know, shows that Pacoima was one of the most burdened communities and Whiteman Airport continues to pursue these 24-hour flights that give lead emissions in our community. You may not see that impact now. I see it now because, generationally, we have seen that our kids have asthma, they have learning disabilities.

Our community deserves better than people who aren't as aware of these impacts. Our LA Aviation Commission needs to take accountability; our LA County Board of Supervisors need to take accountability. And today you all have that option to help us receive that accountability that has not been given to our community for generations now. There was no food here for anyone to eat. How late is it? How long has this meeting been? We have had these meetings in the past. And we need to learn from our past mistakes. This motion presented did take a lot of time and that's where these comments come from. This motion is an injustice again to our community. And I really hope that you as a committee can take the faith of our words and learn from our mistakes in the past and actually take action for a closure and work with our community who has had these mental health impacts, these health impacts that are again, an environmental injustice and a crisis.

Crystal:

I am a community member; I have children that I'm raising here. We recently moved back and I've been very disappointed. I've come to every single meeting that you guys have had just about every single meeting. There's never anything for us, the community who have kids, to actually feel like we're a part of this. We always feel like we're stepping on everybody's toes. There's people here shushing my kids, there's people here, this is ridiculous. I had to go through so much just to be here to have one minute to speak on a motion that, like everybody else. I'm sorry, I can't even speak of how frustrated and angry I am that I have one minute to talk about this motion that does not even serve any of the demands that we have put forward even, in the time that we've been here. So, this is just a huge disrespect to me a community member.

AnnaKaren:

I've also been engaging in the CAC process for over a year and have actively been reaching out to community members throughout this process letting people know about these meetings and doing the outreach that the county should have been doing. And so like other CAC members, I'm not surprised at the lack of true complete community engagement that has been taking place here. This process is a continuation of a legacy of actions that LA County has taken to leave our community out of the public process. This body has condoned the disrespect of Pacoima residents by allowing comments that reinforce harmful stereotypes about low-income communities of color. Thank you for your motion, Mr. Nelson. I appreciate your efforts to find a middle ground but it is clear that it is insufficient and it would be great to be able to hear other motions that have not been able to be shared yet. Thank you.

Melissa:

Hello CAC members and members of the aviation community and Pacoima community. I appreciate you all coming out. I just wanted to say about the motion, that there is a health crisis that's happening right now. It's immediate and it's a problem. There is lead in this aviation fuel and regardless or not, it's been poisoning the community for 75 years. It causes health effects, it

causes development disorders, it's in your blood, it causes so many problems, respiratory problems. This is something that the community has been dealing with for generations, because there has been lead in the air for generations. It was taken out of cars of piston engines in the 70s because there was evidence that it was causing harm and death. So I just think that there are other airports that have been closed, and it's because of the lead.

Phillip:

I'm a member of the Civil Air Patrol there at Pacoima. I don't live in the area. But I live about an hour north. I live up in Lancaster and I traveled down, where I learned how to fly there at Whiteman. As far as the community outreach, the Civil Air Patrol has the cadet program, the EAA has the Young Eagles program. It doesn't seem to be that there's any middle ground as far as the re-envisioning of Whiteman Airport. It just seems like the only goal is to close the airport. What is the re-envisioning? What's the definition of re-envisioning. It seems like it's just to tear down and build a park or build a neighborhood or something. And as far as the taxpayer part of it close the airport, I believe we should expand Whiteman Airport, if anything, thank you.

Altso:

Hi, I live within the San Fernando Gardens. I am for keeping the airport but grounding the airplanes. So I want to think like this in the future, what the Whiteman Airport can be for the City of Pacoima as well as San Fernando Valley. So I believe airports donated for emergency services, like in the summertime, we get the fires in the hills. And I believe that we could, later on in the future, even now, install virtual reality simulator cockpits to still train the new aviators that are to come because the change is going to come quick. Just as the cars turn into electric vehicles, there's no motorized combustion engines. So I believe that Pacoima can help a new evolution of those aviators. And it's still very important to keep emergency services.

Jasmine:

I'm a youth here living in the San Fernando Valley. I've lived here for almost my entire life or actually my entire life. And I would just like to point out that I do not agree with Whiteman Airport staying. It's already been mentioned, and I really think it should be more emphasized that it really does cause lots of problems for the public, not just health problems. But for example, like some of the alternatives, like more housing, I feel like that's something that would really impact this community in a very positive way. There's many families who are trying to look for housing, but they can't because we don't have as much access. And besides that, there's many people are saying that they need to take into account the community's perspective. But I feel like people who don't live in the community are really listening to those words. I really feel like we should really listen to the community and listen to their demands. Not everyone has access for these communities, but they should shut it down. Thank you.

Rosa:

I am a high school student who goes to school in Sun Valley, and I believe that we should close Whiteman Airport if it harms public safety and public health. Why are you questioning whether or not it has to be shut down? There has been multiple accidents affecting public safety and nothing has been done so far. It's well known that the airport uses lead-based fuel and if lead is unsafe for our water, I don't understand why we're being forced to breathe it in. Aside from public safety and health, Pacoima doesn't gain anything economically from the airport being

there. The people in Pacoima deserve to have a space that they can use for themselves. Most people don't even live here. We need safety through noise canceling windows, clean air in a safe community. I feel like a lot of the voices being heard are people who don't live here and they constantly bring up the youth and, as someone who is a 16-year-old girl who sees all the negative effects of vaping in our community, I believe we should shut it down.

Matt:

I'm the president of the 29 Mountain View Association in Sylmar, just to the north of Pacoima. We have been either threatened with evacuation or asked to evacuate due to forest fires in the hills above us multiple times in the 15 years that I've lived here. Without the Whiteman Airport, it will drastically affect not only our health and safety, but it will also affect our insurance rates for our homes. It is actually very dangerous for us to lose the Whiteman Airport simply because the emergency services that are provided there have come into play to save us on multiple occasions. And speaking for my residents I met with yesterday, we are in fact terrified of losing the airport. It is a very real threat to our existence, because it is a health and safety issue. But I'd also like to point out that having watched what happened with the Hughes airfield, I think the negative effects on the community of losing Whiteman Airport and the development that will come, will actually price out many of the residents who live there now. So that should be considered before any vote is taken. I'd recommend tabling these votes until mitigations can be seen. Thank you.

Michelle:

I just wanted to say that we do have a bigger problem, and that is the homelessness here in the area. I think if we use those 184 acres minus the part that is taken by fire department, we would have so much extra space for homeless people to go. We have parks, but they're being taken over by the homeless. So we need to take our parks back. We need to be able to have safe places for our kids to enjoy. And why not use that? So much space for the homeless that we have now. It's a shame that we have kids walking to school, passing the homeless encampments. We have so much space that could be used for that.

Roxanne:

I am a board member on the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. And this is the first meeting that I've been able to attend because you guys continue to have these meetings at the same exact time and day for like a year now. And I know you're aware of this because somebody from your organization came to one of our board meetings at least six months ago and said that these meetings were happening, but yet no adjustments have been made so that, you know, our board members and other community members can go. So I hope if you have another meeting, you please change it to a different day so that we can attend. Even though I live in Sylmar, my daughter actually went to the elementary school that you guys are at right now. So I'm very familiar and have very close ties to Pacoima. And just coming in and shutting down an airport is not a short-term solution. Even if that is able to happen, that's long term. We need "now" solutions and we also need emergency services. We know how hard the fires hit and they hit right there where those elementary schools are. So these short-term solutions without community engagement are not effective.

Mr. Ayala:

I live here in Pacoima. I bought my house in Pacoima, I raised my family in Pacoima, my family's been here for generations in Pacoima, in San Fernando. I didn't move away. This airport is a blight on the community. It was suggested that it would be part of the site for Los Angeles Mission College back in the 80s. Guess who opposed that? Los Angeles Mission College, a school there would have better served the community than what this place is right now. They already mentioned that the emergency services is a miniscule part of what the airport is used for. The vast majority of it is outside interests of people that mostly do not even live in Pacoima. And they come in the morning and they leave in the evening. And they're holding our community hostage to their playful interest. If they want an airport, that's fine. Build it where you live. Worry about putting windows that protect you where you live. We want our space. We could do a whole lot more with that space than what it is right now. Thank you.

Fanny:

I live right up here in Hansen Hills, which is less than three blocks from the airport. My concern was they were saying about pollution and the noise and so forth. We do have a freight train that goes right down San Fernando Road. We do have Metrolink and I'm sure they must put out some sort of pollution. Did anyone ever do an EIR, environment impact on it? I just thought I'd bring that up just in case no one else thought about it. That was my concern. That sound issue and the pollution industry. Freight trains, Metrolink, do they not pollute the air? Think about it. That's all I want to say for right now. Thank you.

Vinay:

I've been raised in Pacoima for my whole life. It's just very unfair that I've been to these meetings and not once have I seen youth or other community members that look like me at these meetings. My dad works really late. He hasn't been able to make it into any of these meetings. He's someone who also has asthma, has respiratory issues. And so it's just unfair, that we haven't seen community that had lived experiences of what the airport has caused in our lives. And it just feels like growing up here, I've never had anyone from my airport, come up to me and ask me to be part of the programs. I've been to middle school, elementary and high school here and no one I've ever heard. The airport truly tried to invest in the youth of this community. We've asked for them to show us your reports of the youth that they really have invested in and we've never heard any of that in return. So I just really want to vocalize that. This process has been really unfair.