

**Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport:
Town Hall Public Comments, May 24, 2022**

GARDENIA: Hi, my name is Gardenia, and what I think -- I know there is a lot of you that are going to say no, but I think it's time for Whiteman to go, Whiteman Airport. I live on the other side near Hansen Dam on Osborne and Cometa, and all day long, 24/7, I hear the noise of the airplanes going over my home. I can't have my windows open, and I wonder about -- I'm concerned about the wildlife and the kids going to the charter schools around there. Have they ever been checked for lead or anything like that? The chemicals from the airplanes that are flying over 24/7? And that's my concern. I think it's time for it to go and put something more useful there, homes, maybe condos, condominiums.

And I'm losing my hearing and having sinus problems. I can't even garden. As soon as I'm out there gardening, I have no privacy. The airplanes are over my head. They say they're allowed to go through there. This area is so big, and they have to go over my street? My home? There has to be a better way.

And I have lived for years on the other side near the dam because it's a nice place to live, but we have to live with this noise. Why over there? I know some people that come and fly their airplanes here they might live in other areas. Go pollute your area, not here in Pacoima. This is a nice area, and our kids have to grow up here. Consider that. We have to keep it up and our health also, so that's my concern. I'll make it short because I have to leave.

I've been calling also complaining. I called Whiteman Airport; you shut me off now. You don't want to hear me. You don't answer your phones when we have a complaint when at night 9:00 o'clock, 9:30, they are still flying around. Thank you very much.

JEFFI: Good evening, everyone. My name is Jeffi, and I'm going to be very transparent. I am running for Los Angeles County Supervisor District 3 in Sheila Kuehl's seat.

I am one hundred percent against closing this airport, and I'm going to tell you why. One, Los Angeles County Fire flies out of this airport, where do you think you're going to put them? They fly out of Whiteman when they can. Two, they are next to Castaic Lake. They can pick up water from that lake. And I don't know how many people in this area were in the Woolsey Fire, but we had to evacuate over a hundred that were forced out of Thousand Oaks. Had we had this airport closed, I just want to know where this gentleman

would have flown his fleet out of? We could not have saved the number of homes that we saved had it not been for the fire department out of Whiteman Airport.

The other thing is Los Angeles County Supervisors has the County Board of Education. It's time that we use that property along with the airport to educate many of our kids in vocational education airport, which is not getting done through other educational departments. We have Los Angeles County Children and Family Services. We have kids in foster care. Those kids need to have an outlet where they can learn and do other things. This property offers the ability and the space for that education to happen. Imagine if Mr. Gaylor could teach kids about the fire department and how nice it would be to be able to fly out of that airport. How nice that it is we have programs already on Whiteman's property that are teaching kids how to build aircrafts. How great would it be to be able to bring kids to this airport, like they do every third Saturday of the month, and they let them fly for free? And make that a regular program actually supported by the county.

A lot of education can be done through this airport, and I do understand how the residents feel, but they have the same problem in Van Nuys and the same problem in Santa Monica. We have to have airports in county areas. It's a part of being in the county, and I do empathize and sympathize for them, but this county property has so much value leaving it as a standing airport, and we must have a place for the Los Angeles County Fire Department to fly in and out of. This airport allows for that.

Thank you.

SONIA: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm a resident of Pacoima. I also feel the same way as some of the speakers that I don't think it should be closed. I think it's important to take advantage of the resource for our children here in the community. I'm actually a trained historian. I was getting my PhD from University of Illinois.

And one of the objectives of social justice for our communities has been access to resources in order to educate our youth, and this airport actually has that framework already, and we're not using it to its full advantage.

And I understand some of the community concerns, and I feel like there should be a compromise. For instance, the resident about the planes flying all the time --

And I understand that there needs to be some compromise. I know that the staff for Monica Rodriguez mentioned safety issues, so those things should be addressed definitely, but I don't think the airport should be closed at all --

Just to finalize, I do support the airport. I have been a long time resident here, and it is something I would like for my son to have access to and also my nephews. I have 13 boy nephews. So it's something that excites boys, little boys, and that has been sort of my objective in trying to keep the airport open.

And I hope the other issues can be resolved because I think they are legitimate concerns in terms of how they fly and their routes, and I think those should be definitely addressed, but I do support having the airport open as a resident of Pacoima. Not all of us feel the same.

JAMES: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for devoting your evening to this.

I'm a tenant at Whiteman Airport. I have been there for almost 30 years. I also am running the Civil Air Patrol Program at the airport. This is a youth leadership development program. It helps not just teach youths about aviation and flying, and we have several scholarships to help cover the cost of that, but we teach them to be leaders of tomorrow.

When we look at what's going on, most of what you have had to sit through through the year -- because I've sat through the meetings and spoken at them -- is a lot of rhetoric, keep it open, close it, keep it open, close it. That's not what re-envisioning about. Re-envisioning is about us expressing our vision for the future with the position that we want to support. The people that want it closed, the closest I've heard of their vision for it is to turn it into some form of housing. The people who want to keep it open, most of what they are saying is keep it open, take advantage of what we have.

I would like to share my vision of what I see happening in the next few years regardless of what side you're on because we all know it's someplace between 13 and 20 years before the airport would really close because of the financial obligations. And that is, I see Whiteman Airport becoming a hub for air mobilization, and this is

moving people around Los Angeles through the air in electrical, vertical takeoff and landing aircraft.

There is a major push going on right now that this be in place for the Olympics. The purpose of that is to be able to move people all over the city during the Olympics to get them above the traffic and get them where they want to go, and Whiteman is going to be apart of that. It is going to happen. We have businesses right now that want to set up at Whiteman maintenance facilities, manufacturing facilities, for electric takeoff and landing vehicles. These are pollution-free, relatively speaking, vehicles that are going to move about, and they're going to provide local jobs for the local community.

SOLOMON: Hello, I'm Solomon.

I'm an aircraft owner and pilot at Whiteman Airport. I've restored two classic aircrafts and became a pilot. I used to be at an San Fernando Airport, and I moved to Whiteman.

I think it's important that they keep the airport because the youth of Pacoima they can come to the airport and learn to become airline pilots and air traffic controllers and they can become aircraft maintenance mechanics. And this is a better place for the youth to learn than over at Van Nuys or the other airports. It's very comfortable and a nice place to learn, and it would be robbing them of their opportunity if they took away the airport. That's what I mostly want to say.

I had heard that at Pierce College that all that land was deeded to the college for an agriculture college, so if they ever tried to do something like change it that the land would go back to the owner. I wonder if at Whiteman they have the same sort of situation where it was granted as an airport but unless it still remains as an airport it would go back to the Whiteman family. I don't know if that's possible to be in place.

Also, as far as if they ever took away the airport, what would happen was you're going to have more pollution, more traffic congestion. You're going to have probably more crime, and it would be very uncomfortable for the people that live in Pacoima now.

MATTHEW: Hi, everyone. I want to thank everyone for turning out tonight, the panel, Ms. Avalos, Ms. Girgenti. It's good to see all of you here. It's an

important topic to talk about, and I wanted to talk about why this airport needs to stay open.

In terms of re-envisioning, as a pilot who just got over from a flight today, I came over from the airport to here directly. I'm still here.

The safety threat is you have roads where two poor people died just a few days ago. Two people on the Interstate 210 two days ago or last week, and I don't hear everyone having a mass outrage about that. Where was the outrage about that if you're worried about death?

The fact of the matter is that the airport serves an educational function for thousands of people now, tomorrow, yesterday there is so much potential there and it is going largely untapped as some of the other speakers said. There is a little sprout here who probably has a future at the airport if that's where he decides to fly in to.

As far as the safety measures that Ms. Hernandez pointed out asking about buffer zones, the airport did try to put in safety zones in 2011 and those were blocked by Pacoima Beautiful, actually. They spoke again of safety measures. We have that on record and we have that in the newspapers that they took credit for opposing safety measures. So if they want to talk about safety, why don't we talk about why they opposed it and why is that?

I tried to get ahold of Ms. Rodriguez' office by the way, and I've tried about 25 times to do that. I have only gotten through to your friend Ms. McKinney twice, and she has not returned my phone calls very often. Twice in 25 times. When I tried to get hold of Ms. Avalos over there, it was I believe five hours from initial contact to getting a response, so you tell me who gets action done.

It's ludicrous to think about closing the airport over freak accidents. Where is the logic of that? If you want to shut something down -- (public comment time up).

ALLEN: Hello, everyone.

I'm listening to everyone speaking about the airport. I have the same concerns, but my concern is our public safety. We talk about public safety, talk about how many money was spent, \$180 million on public safety. The airport is -- I've seen a lot of crashes. I've been in Pacoima 68 years. I've seen it grow, but now it's not the planes, it's the vendors on the street.

I know they have to survive to earn a living, but

what they're doing is causing innocent mothers and babies in strollers to be pushed in the street, and I think that's very dangerous, and I don't see nobody trying to do anything about that.

Like the last gentleman says, calling Monica Rodriguez's office is like talking to a wall. You can't get nothing done. And I have called several times and there's always a delay or they are not in the office.

But planes, I have seen quite a few crashes here, I agree, but I don't agree about closing it because what are you going to put there? Caruso is talking about using empty buildings to put homeless encampments. We don't need no more of that. We need homes to be built and people to be protected behind crazy people that are breaking into people's houses.

But my problem, my thing is about our sidewalks being violated by homeless people, vendors pushing us into the street, walking in the street. I think the 7th District has failed our cities in doing the jobs they are supposed to do, and if you spent \$180 million, where is it? That's why I got to say.

HENRY: Hello. My first time coming out. I really wanted to come and listen to what's going on regarding the airport. Lifelong Pacoima resident. I coach softball, baseball, youth sports in the area for 25 years already.

I don't see a major issue in the airport, but I did want to come and learn and listen to everyone's outlook. I will be looking into this more myself and make my opinion. Everyone makes their own.

Sir, regarding what you mentioned about the street vendors, I fully agree. It is a safety concern at the Target shopping center on Laurel Canyon to pull out of the parking lot. The sidewalks are complete filthy. I have seen one vendor in front of this market the other day at 11:00 at night scrubbing the curb where they are a vendor at. I appreciate that. I will buy from her.

Other than that, I said pretty much what I had to say, my outlook.

TERRY: Hello, my name is Terry. There has been some concern expressed by people about the safety of the airport and problems like that. Well, there is national records and everything else that say there is 450,000 people a year die on the highways. Around 30- or

35,000 die flying; okay?

Another thing that has been said is how the airport pollutes. "Oh, it pollutes like crazy." Have you ever looked at all the cars going down San Fernando Road? Have you looked at the diesel engines going back and forth and all the pollution they put out?

Also, when I moved in -- let me backtrack. I'm a pilot here. I grew up in Panorama city, and I came to this airport all the time because I was totally enthused about aviation, and I wanted to learn, and it was an inexpensive place I could go.

This airport was made or was opened in 1946. I don't know how many years that is. We'll say 70. And again, when I moved in this neighborhood we looked all around to see if there was anything that might be questionable and make us not want to go. And my question is where did all these people look who moved in here? Why didn't they look? Now is kind of late to complain there are all these problems. You should have looked when you moved in.

And that's all I have.

BURTON: Hello, I live in Arleta, and work and attend church all within the ZIP code and vicinity of Whiteman Airport.

I strongly disagree with statements by a few politicians and other political activists as they call for shutting down all of Whiteman Airport until further investigation of aircraft accidents have been completed, and with the statements of others who wish to have the airport shut down permanently.

I believe that it is the special interest groups who are pushing for this airport to be closed down, and I don't think that those involved in this decision making should buy into the lobbyist appeals of those special interest groups.

As regards to accident investigations, the whole of Whiteman Airport should not be held hostage due to what is the responsibility of each individual pilot. I have seen that the N.T.S.B. and F.A.A. investigations of aircraft accidents can take years before final investigations are complete and a report gets published. Other airport pilots and employees and services of Whiteman Airport and other municipal airports should not be held hostage and be incapacitated by being shut down and out of service until final investigations are

concluded.

The ongoing services of Municipal airports provides far more than being a recreational hub for pilots who have planes housed there. The airport serves practical and functional ways to provide vital and life-saving services to the people of our broader community through the volunteer work some of the pilots offer and the, of course, civil air control.

Please don't allow the airport to be shut down due to the voices of special interest entities and their all too vocal lobbyists. My vote is on the side of keeping municipal airports across our county open, even if some accidents have happened to pilots who have flown out of them. This includes my desire to see Whiteman Airport, a part of our community, staying open.

Thank you.

JAMES: Hi, I'm James.

I would like to keep the airport open. The airport is a very important resource to our community. I can consider it a national security place because if any disaster or any kind of tragedy happens, it's a resource that we're going to need. And they have hand radios there where people can communicate. We have an airport where supplies can be brought in.

It's an extremely important thing to have and once it's gone -- I don't understand why they're even closing Santa Monica. I can understand people complaining about the jets and all these Hollywood people that want to get out and ride them all the time. Yeah, there should be restrictions on them, but not to go ahead and close these places because they are very important.

They have been here for years. Santa Monica opened in 1927, and Whiteman Airport has been here since 1946. I saw a picture and there was nothing around it. The only place that was there was the projects, and the projects, actually, used to be military bases.

And my last comment is I would like to thank Mr. Whiteman, and I would like to thank him for his service. He is a military pilot, and I would just like to thank him for his service. Thank you.

CONNIE: Hi. So, I have diverse opinions about the airport. First of all, I definitely wouldn't mind it going in place of it a movie theater, maybe Starbucks, Cold Stone, maybe something really

valuable to this community because these things have been locked out of Pacoima. Pacoima doesn't even have a Starbucks -- Well, isn't there one at Lowe's? Oh, there's one in Target. Well, anyway, there's that.

So, if we are going to replace it, it would be nice to replace with something of value, and it also can have, maybe, a little park or something like that for community entertainment and things like that.

The other thing is I know that, sir, as far as being over the Fire Department there, you suggested that you had a lot of planes. Is it planes or helicopters?

ROBERT GAYLOR: Helicopters.

CONNIE: Helicopters.

Now, I looked at the map for Whiteman Airport. Whiteman Airport is not the same as the fire department. In fact, if the Whiteman Airport area was completely sold and turned into something it would not close down the fire department airport. Is that correct? The heliport?

ROBERT GAYLOR: We own that land.

CONNIE: They own that land.

So, I just wanted to mention it because it's not like we will lose all our fire copters.

But also what I'm afraid of is if they close it down and make one of these little tiny homes for people who don't have houses and now we're degressing the area.

Thank you.

ELISA: Hello. Thank you, guys.

I want to say that I'm for keeping the airport open.

Whiteman Airport offers five -- not one, not two -- five programs for our youth. We live in a low-income area. I have two boys. Me and my husband go to sleep sometimes talking about how we're going to pay for college. Whiteman Airport offers that.

Five different programs; one of the programs they have, I love. Why? Because they're building a plane. But, sometimes you go and you drop off your child and drive off or you stay for a little bit. No, this program you're building next to your child. You're creating memories. I've been trying to convince my kids to join to become a pilot, but they're afraid of heights. So, I found out there is mechanics.

I want to make sure that parents in my community don't have to stress and they know that there is another opportunity. We cannot close this airport. If any of you

guys go hiking and you get stuck, they leave from the Whiteman Airport before the county looks for you. I live down the street from the airport. The noise you hear at night sometimes, it's not the planes. It's the helicopters, the county helicopters. How are you going to stop that?

Now people are saying, you know, we don't really have green space. Behind it the David M. Gonzalez Park, right next door is Roger Jessup Park, and there is a community garden where you can go and garden. And down the street if you want to go fishing, there is Hansen Dam. If you want to go swimming, there is Hansen Dam. We're spoiled here.

Let's take care of our open spaces, but Mr. Whiteman he was a military person. He came back because he wanted kids in our community to learn how to fly. Thank you.

MARK: Thank you everybody for your time. I'm just going to synopsise what everyone is, kind of, saying without too much rhetoric.

County Fire will still be there -- right? -- if they close Whiteman Airport. Is that what they are saying? That's what we're being promised. So, what are you going to build there with county helicopters taking off? You're not going to build a housing development. They aren't going to like that.

We have news helicopters coming out of there. It is a famous staging area for emergencies; it has been used for that. Search and rescue and youth programs, civil air control. That is valuable not Starbucks, in my opinion.

They're going to be moving to unleaded fuel, anyway. These are small aircraft that can transition to unleaded fuel, so the argument that the Whiteman Airport is dropping lead all over our children is not true. There has been no study completed regarding potential pollution specifically from that airport. Now, I hear there is a program where they are going to be paying young people to walk around with pollution meters measuring that. That sounds fraught with problems to me.

The results of the last Pacoima City Hall post-it poll showed that a majority of people here -- despite the efforts of the certain groups going up there multiple times and filling out multiple post-its -- wants to save and keep the airport open,

The airport was there first and as the gentleman said earlier there were efforts to maintain a safe area around the airport. Those efforts were ignored and you see what we've gotten. I feel the word re-envision has been redefined with this committee. It seems to mean close the airport.

Thank you very much.

MARIA: Hello, good afternoon.

My name is Maria, and I'm here to support the closure of the airport because it's not 20, 10, 30, 50 or 60 accidents. It has been more than that, and the last two were in Pacoima and another one in Sylmar.

And also we have to hear it 24/7, 365 days, and this is causing fear for us, and we're afraid that this is going to fall on top of our houses. One of the vessels may fall also in our background, so we need this to please stop.

Our families run this risk everyday.

Please stop. Thank you.

ANNACAREN: So, I spent the day talking to residents that live adjacent to the airport. Many of whom got flyers for this meeting but were not able to have any conversations about it, so I did want to highlight just the need for more outreach to be done to local community members to make sure they can be present.

And I don't see how residents who have been personally impacted by the airport are a special interest group, but it is important that local residents are able to be here and voice their concerns. Who have been living next to the airport for decades and have been facing constant fear of having a plane crash in their community, in their homes, in their backyards.

And there has been a 30-day moratorium that Congressman Tony Cardenas has put a request to the F.A.A. for, and I support the 30-day closure to investigate the safety standards, safety audit, for the airport, and for a curfew to take place in the meantime, so local residents can get peace and quiet. And if Santa Monica was able to close their airport and get a closure date, then so should residents from Pacoima.

I personally wouldn't want my children to be learning to fly from an aviation school that has had over 85 accidents happen in the area. There was one that happened a little over a month ago, just a month ago. I

don't know how many crashes have to happen in order for people to listen to the fears and the threats that residents from the area are facing, and I support extending this process to make sure we get enough community members to actually be able to show up and voice their opinions.

Thank you.

THOMAS: Thank you, everybody, for coming this evening. I would like to point out that Pacoima is unique. It has a unique asset which is Whiteman Airport. There are youth activities there. The Experimental Aircrafts Association, the Young Eagles program. We've flown several thousand children on introductory flights, we are building an airplane with youth from the neighborhood in our hangar there.

I spoken previously on the zoom versions of the C.A.C. meetings, and I have a disappointment and a frustration in hearing that, "You might have a good youth activity and maybe it's very good, but we don't know about it." I just don't understand that. Each time I've invited members of C.A.C. to come seek us out. Come this Saturday to the Young Eagles program. They are on the grassy area in front of the old office area. See the kids here; see their parents. Come every Saturday afternoon, 2:00 o'clock to our hangar. We meet out on the grassy area, and the kids are building airplanes.

If we didn't have the airport, you would not have these opportunities to expose the children to a notion of a career in aviation science management. It is a real asset that you have, and it would be a shame to see it go away.

The fact these airplanes and these resources are donated to your community shows the people at Whiteman Airport want to support the development of your children, so with that I should stop at that point. I have 21 seconds.

And I do not like hearing false information, 80-some accidents and so forth. I think the number was 14, and only some of those are attributable to airplanes flying in and around Whiteman.

Thank you.

TEODORA: Hi everyone. I am Teodora. I'm a local resident who grew up here not only in Pacoima, but also surrounding communities like Sun Valley,

Grand Hills, North Hills.

And I have experienced the lack of engagement from Whiteman as a youth. I know there have been a few that have benefited from the aviation services, but, historically, we see that our youth have not been engaged. Our youth have not come out with private aviation licenses or have had the opportunity to fully engage in what STEM and what this airport offers.

So what I am here to advocate is for the shutdown of Whiteman Airport. The shutdown of Whiteman Airport is for the safety of our peace, for the safety of our mental health, for the safety of our physical health. When you think about what health means to you, you think about peace in your home. You think about being able to rest on weekends, especially in a community like Pacoima where we have hard laborers who come home and have to deal with airport noise coming into their windows. Not just the noise pollution but the physical aspect of a window shaking because you have an airplane right above you, almost hitting power lines. You have an airplane, a private aviation airplane being flown by a youth who is learning in a space where it's a high residential area. Yes, we do need parks. We need green spaces because Pacoima has one of the highest pollution rates. When the community thinks about the airport they think about having to commute around the airport. That should not have been something a community has to do. Our mothers have to walk us home. Our mothers have to get us to school to a library and what we see is we have to walk around that airport. We would love to see a park there. We would love to see what the community wants there.

Thank you.

ANDRES: Good afternoon.

My name is Andres. I live next to Whiteman Airport, and I've been living there 45 years. I've seen planes fall down, and I saw one that fell on Arbor. And I have seen so many things happen from the airport that I feel like it is time for it to be closed down.

I've seen the planes fly so low it doesn't even allow us to talk to family members on Sundays when we're home. And on Sundays when it's time to be with our families and it's a day of rest, we can't do that because the planes fly so low we can't even hear each other talk.

And I want to thank you. It's time for you guys to know how we feel and for you guys to solve the problem. Thank you.

NORMA: Hello, everyone.
I'm here because I strongly support keeping the Whiteman.

I know that people come and say statistics that are not real, and I have petitioned that the C.A.C. comes up with the real statistics of the accidents, the mental health issues that certain people claim there are. The numbers are so high. I would really like to see those statistics.

Our communities are very diverse, so we can't say that we're not part of the community because we're not asking for the shutdown of the airport.

I am sad that other communities were not included in the C.A.C. because whatever happens to the Whiteman it will affect Pacoima, Arleta, Sun Valley, Van Nuys, Santa Clarita because wherever there is an emergency this is where we're going to get the help from, from this airport. We have to keep it open.

I understand some people have issues with their health, but are we sure that it came because of the Whiteman? How come this did not come up before? Why did it come up only now? Because there is an idea that there will be a development that in that area. And I certainly don't want apartments there because I feel that they will be trash, gangs, traffic among other issues.

I strongly support keeping the Whiteman because it provides services for the youth. I volunteer at various schools and I know my child does not want to do anything with aviation, but I know there are other kids that do and this give them the opportunity. We can teach the kids how to fly an airplane, how to fix an engine, but unless they do it hands on, then they don't really know. My husband has taught me how to change the oil to my car, how to change the tire, but because I have never done it I know I don't know.

FANNIE: Good evening, everyone.

I am Fannie, and I am in favor maintaining the airport.

I live up on the hill. I have been here since 1974, and I plan to be here until they cart me off. Anyway, as far as the noise is concerned the most noise I

hear is L.A.P.D. helicopters flying around and other helicopters not from the aircraft, so to me that's not the issue.

As far as putting a housing project there of any sort, do you plan on moving the railway? That is a lot of noise right there, the railway. I think that will be a challenge to move the railway. I don't think you want to do that.

Even though I have no grandkids to go through that program, if I did, I would welcome them to do that.

Regarding the pollution, we have the 170; we have the 118; we have the 210. Do we have smog coming from the cars from there? I think so.

Also, we have Roger Jessup Park that I have been complaining about for four years or more with no facilities there, and that is a beautiful park but it hasn't been taken care of. And we want another park? Let's fix that one up. That will be helpful.

By the way, I see several of my neighbors here, and we did get the flyer. That's why I'm here, and I encourage others to come too.

So, thank you for your time, and I hope we keep the airport open. I think it's something Pacoima can be really proud of. Well, thank you

ROSA: Hi. I'm here today because I received your flyer about commencing the meeting today, and I hear everyone is complaining they want to close up the airport. Perhaps those people are afraid that an airplane is going to fall on top of them and perhaps they are right with their fear.

I've been living here for 40 years and in case you do close the airport, I would like you guys to do something good with the park, something that will help the people here.

And also I would like to say that those are my fears, and I would like to keep Pacoima clean. I don't even take the trash out of my car and toss it everywhere. I pick up everything. I want to keep everything looking pretty.

And there are a lot of young people living on the streets right now. I don't know if because they don't have a place to live, and I don't know if they don't like to work or what's going on with them. And then also there are a bunch of cars lining up on our streets living there, and they are also putting trash everywhere. They are

coming with their ice chests and refrigerators and making everything so dirty. We need to lift up Pacoima. We go to San Fernando, and it's a different story over there.

Also, I want to keep Pacoima beautiful. We have to keep it beautiful. I want to Downey a couple months ago with no people living on the streets and everything, and that's what we need to do here as well.

CRYSTAL: Hi, good evening.

I was raised here in Pacoima my whole life. I moved out and moved back recently, and I have experienced a lot of difficulty adjusting to the noise, pollution from the airport since moving back. I live a few blocks away from the airport. My kids as well. They can not focus as much on their school work when they are at home.

And I also wanted to bring up that I feel like there is a lot of disconnect with a lot of the members here who are in support of keeping the airport. A lot of our community were not able to come to this event because of their work schedules like it has been said by previous people who have come up to speak. A lot of us have difficult schedules we all work. Some of us work three jobs, and the prices here are rising like everywhere else. We cannot afford to even live in our community.

It's really concerning to hear people say, "You should have known before you moved into the community. You should have known." What about the fact that this community has always been a point of commute for various points of Los Angeles? What about the fact that there are certain things that cannot change within this community?

But what we can change is giving dignity back to at least having the reduction of noise pollution, of air pollution, giving us the possibility of green space or housing or addressing the homeless situation. Whatever it is I believe that even having the airport there is a part of the homeless problem. The fact that it takes up so much space. The city isn't stepping in to take care of that space.

KEVIN MCAVOY: Maybe I am part of this community.

In the late '50s, my mom had to take me up to Hubbard Street School. Back then, they had an airport in San Fernando, and Friday night at 9:00 p.m. sharp if you looked to the left, the sky got red. A couple seconds later, you heard the thunder. I think that was a Saturn 5 rocket they flipped upside down.

I don't know how many people you know -- let me do a time check.

Thank you all for taking your time to come out here, and I'll turn around and thank the rest of you.

The noise, you just had I could say the Air Force, maybe National Guard -- you just had two ospreys. Do you know what an osprey is? It has two rotating helicopter blades on the wings, and they, kind of, slide down and then they go forward. And then you have Channel 5 news, news copters out there.

Oh, crud.

I'm a pilot. I'm an A.M.T., and I donate my time to this little airport. There's an Abby that helps build this plane. Three and a half weeks ago, I was playing peak-a-boo with her, and she would run to her mommy. Last Saturday, I couldn't get the pliers out of her hand, and she's only seven years old at the time.

YVONNE (read by project team member on behalf of community member):

"It bothered me that 14 accidents in one decade doesn't seem to be an alarming number from those that work and benefit from the airport.

As a resident, someone that lives and works in Pacoima, it's worrisome that a health report has never been done on how Whiteman's continued use of lead-based fuel affects of the community.

As commented, if these small aircrafts most over three decades old can be converted to a less harmful fuel source, then why haven't they? There is a reason why commercial aircrafts have phased out lead-based fuel. Why should Pacoima continue under this harmful fuel? Good fortune aside, I can imagine much better uses of that land, and with the future closing of Santa Monica Airport, I can foresee an increase in accidents from planes at Whiteman Airport. It is just common sense that with an increase of aerial traffic, there will also be an increase of accidents."