

SASY

Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association

August 5, 2013

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi
City County Building, Room 421
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

Subject: Reducing County Airport Noise

Dear County Executive Parisi:

Thank you for meeting with our neighborhood association on February 21st to discuss noise from the Dane County Regional Airport. It was a unique moment since no one could recall another time when a county executive had met with neighborhoods impacted by the airport. Our presentation to you showed how the airport has affected surrounding residents and our recommendations for making our neighborhoods safer, healthier and more desirable. Our presentation, "Noise from Dane County Regional Airport - A Neighborhood View" is available on our web site.¹

Key points of our presentation include the following:

- Nearly 70,000 people live in 27 neighborhoods within a 3-mile radius of the county airport.
- There are over 44,000 flights over populated neighborhoods each year.
- Military flights have increased 50% over the past 10 years.
- During the past 20 years, the low income population of the 12 elementary schools surrounding the airport has increased from 31 to 68%.
- The airport's last noise abatement plan was approved by FAA in 1996 and showed that 1,606 families were exposed to noise above the FAA noise standard of 65 dnl. These families received none of the protections provided by other airports such as paid noise insulation or relocation.
- The FAA noise standard of 65 dnl is over 30 years old and doesn't address adverse impacts on health, school performance, property values or quality of life.
- In 2006, the county airport had a profit of nearly \$5 million, and from 2006 to 2013, it spent over \$140 million on improvements but nothing on noise abatement.
- Other airports in the U.S., some smaller than our own, have recently expanded their noise abatement programs.
- We reminded you of one of your recent and relevant statements: "*Quality of life matters, and environmental protection matters.*"

¹ <http://tinyurl.com/sasyna-airport-noise-21feb13>

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We hope you left our February 21st meeting with a better understanding of how the county airport impacts surrounding neighborhoods and how improvements would help the 70,000 residents that continue to be exposed to county airport noise every day.

In our letter to you of October 8, 2012, we provided many recommendations for improving the county airport noise abatement program.² We still hope that you and airport staff will formally respond to our recommendations.

Based on our February 21st meeting, the following noise abatement improvements are needed:

1. Update the county airport noise abatement plan with public input.
2. Implement a home noise insulation program.
3. Begin complying with federal environmental justice requirements.
4. Begin monitoring and reporting daily noise and air traffic levels.
5. Contact congressional representatives to reduce the impacts of military flights.
6. Create an independent position to oversee the airport's noise abatement program.

As said in our October 8th letter, residents of Dane County are proud of our environmental ethics and efforts to become more sustainable. However, those of us living and working on the east and north sides of Madison are reminded every day that the Dane County Regional Airport consumes a large part of our city. Airplanes, jets and helicopters shake our houses, interrupt our classrooms, stop our conversations, disrupt our sleep, lower our property values, promote poverty and decrease our quality of life.

We hope to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods surrounding the airport and make them safer, healthier and more desirable. We hope you will help us achieve our goal.

Sincerely,

Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association

Lou Host-Jablonski, Chair

Steven Klafka, Melanie Foxcroft, and Tim Wong, Airport Noise Committee

² <http://tinyurl.com/parisi-airport-noise-8oct12>

Copies by email to the following:

Representatives

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin

Monona Mayor Bob Miller

Senator Mark Miller

Senator Fred Risser

Representative Chris Taylor

Congressman Mark Pocan

County Supervisor John Hendrick

County Supervisor Paul Rusk

Kathy Soukup (East Moreland CA)

Tim Klaben (Rolling Meadows NA)

Mike Digman (Elvehjem NA)

Pat Hadden (Truax NA)

Art Hackett (Eken Park NA)

Randall Glysck (Carpenter-Ridgeway NA)

Richard Linster (Tenney-Lapham NA)

Todd Jensen (Marquette NA)

Shelley Legried (Whitetail Ridge)

Eastside and Northside Neighborhoods

Isthmus Neighborhoods Planning Council

Northside Planning Council

Megan Maguire (Sherman NA)

Willy Holden (Berkley Oaks NA)

Beth Sweeney (Westchester Gardens NA)

Bill Grove (Majestic Oaks NA)

Diane Calhoun (Hawthorne NA)

Char Tortorice (Lake View NA)

Dace Zeps (Worthington Park NA)

Dolly O'Laughlin (Brentwood Village A)

Jeff Mintzlaff (Burke Heights NA)

Joe Campana (Ridgewood NA)

John Koch (Emerson East NA)

Jon Duxbury (Sheridan Triangle NA)

Sue Christoffersen (Glendale NA)

Susan Hill (Mendota Hills NA)

Ted Blazel (Heritage Heights CA)

Tonya Nisbet (East Buckeye NA)

Joseph Clausius (Clarendon Hills HA)

Environmental Organizations

Kristen Joiner (Sustain Dane)

Twink Jan-McMahon (Sustainable Atwood)

Maria Powell (Madison Environmental Justice Organization)

Kim Wright (Midwest Environmental Advocates)