

SASY

Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association

July 1, 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 Impacts on Surrounding Neighborhoods

Dear County Executive Parisi:

Thank you for meeting with our neighborhood association on February 21, 2013 to discuss the impact of noise from the Dane County Regional Airport on Dane County residential neighborhoods. Airport noise pollution continues to severely impact the health and safety of residents living near the airport. It is pervasive and adversely affect the lives of people living near the airport and under its flight paths.

Considering your support for environmental issues, we were surprised at our meeting to find you showed no sympathy for those impacted by airport noise, especially the large population of low-income families now attending surrounding schools. We had hoped you would provide leadership and direct airport staff to respond to our recommended improvements to the airport's outdated and under-funded noise abatement program. The damage done to surrounding neighborhoods will only continue if you fail to help those who cannot defend themselves.

Dane County should minimize the adverse impacts of airport noise pollution just as the county currently addresses other major pollution sources such as groundwater runoff into our streams and lakes. In our October 8th letter to you, we provided many recommendations for improving the county airport noise abatement program.¹ We have not received a response, and still hope that you and airport staff will formally respond to our recommendations in writing.

You and county staff should treat this issue seriously and actively work to implement feasible remediation strategies, such as those summarized below. Based on your lack of response to the recommendations in our October 8th letter, it appears that you prefer to ignore airport impacts and our concerns. This is unacceptable to us as well as anyone promoting healthy and sustainable neighborhoods in Madison.

¹ <http://tinyurl.com/parisi-airport-noise-8oct12>

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July 1, 2013

Page 2

Based on our meeting of February 21, 2013, we feel the following noise abatement measures are necessary and fiscally feasible for the county to implement as soon as possible:

1. Update the outdated county airport noise abatement plan with public input.
2. Implement an airport-funded home noise insulation program in impacted neighborhoods.
3. Measure and report daily noise and air traffic levels.
4. Limit, in cooperation with the city of Madison, further residential development in neighborhoods close to the airport and under flight patterns by seeking easements and developments rights.
5. Contact congressional representatives to reduce the noise impacts from military flights.
6. Create an independent position to oversee a comprehensive airport noise abatement program.
7. Require all airport projects to comply with federal environmental justice requirements.

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 is a serious source of pollution impacting a large population of our county and city. As presented to you during our meeting, over 70,000 people live within three miles of the airport. Airplanes, jets, and helicopters continue to shake our houses, interrupt our classrooms, stop our conversations, disrupt our sleep, lower our property values, promote poverty, and decrease our quality of life.

Thank you again for meeting with us. It was unique moment since no one could recall another time when a Dane County executive had met with neighborhoods impacted by the airport. Our presentation to you showed how the airport is affecting surrounding residents and summarized 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.² We hope you left our February 21st meeting with a better understanding of how the county airport impacts surrounding neighborhoods and how further improvements would benefit the 70,000 residents that continue to be exposed to county airport noise every day.

We still need your help and commitment to improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods surrounding the county airport and making them safer, healthier, and more desirable.

Sincerely,

Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association

Lou Host-Jablonski, Chair

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

² <http://tinyurl.com/sasyana-airport-noise-21feb13>

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 Glysch (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)