

March 29, 2019

Honorable George Latimer  
Westchester County Executive  
148 Martine Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10601

*(Sent via email to: CE@westchestergov.com)*

Dear County Executive Latimer:

We write to you today with the hope of getting your support to help mitigate the problems caused by Westchester County Airport noise. We are New Castle residents who attended the Airport Advisory Board ("AAB") meeting on March 27, 2019. At this meeting we saw a frustrated crowd of County residents, many from our Town, crammed into a small conference room. These people are frustrated because the airport is having a material, negative impact on their quality of life. This is a frustration you witnessed first-hand when you visited New Castle Town Hall in April 2018. Our community needs your help and leadership on this issue.

At the March 27th meeting we heard a presentation by Dr. Arline Bronzaft, Psychologist, professor, and former Chairperson of the New York City Noise Committee. She detailed the negative physiological effects of noise pollution and her lifelong work on noise abatement and mitigation specific to the rail and air sectors. She cited many studies and laws regarding noise that demonstrate its known impact. Most striking was how Dr. Bronzaft's presentation resonated with the residents who live in proximity to our airport or a related flight path. They feel it every day.

As non-partisan candidates running for Supervisor and Town Board seats in our Town, we, along with fellow candidate Sean Maraynes, speak to residents every single day. We do not need noise monitors to tell you that New Castle residents are frustrated and concerned by the airport's increase in noise and other types of pollution. The primary issue impacting residents is an inequitable distribution of flight paths throughout the neighborhoods North of the airport. Most flights cut through the heart of our Town at low altitude on approach for landing; over the same location, repeatedly, minute after minute.

When you ran for office we recall local supporters saying, "Vote for Latimer and airport noise will decrease." Our residents are anxiously awaiting that promised leadership to reduce noise. Not privatizing the airport was an important decision, but it is not sufficient to resolve the airport issues area residents still face. Voters elected leaders to take action, but no action has been taken. The problem has only gotten worse.

We believe you are uniquely positioned to lead on this airport issue. First, the airport is a public asset of the County and you play an important role in how County facilities are operated and improved. Second, leading a significant County like Westchester puts you in a leadership position, well placed to work and advocate at the national level with Congressional representatives and the FAA.

The AAB has devoted countless hours and continually work to address the public at board meetings, seek out and mine through flight and operations data, and work with residents in order to find solutions. They need your full support. Ultimately, however, the AAB is not the decision-making body. Only County elected officials have the authority to make things right. Only you and the Board of Legislators can deploy the legal, policy and financial resources required to make a difference.

It is important to say that residents are not seeking to close Westchester Airport—it has been a valuable County asset and amenity since it was built in 1942 and the first commercial flight took off in 1949. We believe solutions exist that enable airport operations to occur in harmony with surrounding communities. And we will certainly roll up our sleeves as residents and work along-side you to help implement those reasonable and practical solutions.

While we seek action and not words, we strongly recommend a roundtable discussion with experts and concerned residents to determine what action can be taken. We hope you will consider coming to our Town in the near future to hold such a discussion.

Best,

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