

VAN NUYS AIRPORT (VNY) CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)
Meeting Minutes -- Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Van Nuys City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys, CA 91401
Approved: Tuesday, March 04, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN JASON PRICE

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Jason Price.

I. ROLL CALL

Fifteen of the 20 Council Members were present: Alicia Avery, Rolando Chavez, Roslyn Dahl, Doug Decker, MaryKate Harris, Tom Materna, Kanchan Mattoo, Naila Mendes, Heren Molina, John Parker, Araz Parseghian, Lisa Petrus, Jason Price (Chair), Eric Robinson and Bob Rodine (Parliamentarian). Eliot Cohen and Phyllis Winger (CD12) arrived later. Kathy Delle Donne, Leonel Fuentes and Wayne Williams (Vice-Chair) were absent. Per the VNY CAC Bylaws [see

<https://www.iflyvny.com/-/media/iflyvny/community-information/files/citizen-advisory-council/cacbylaws.ashx?20200724>, “ARTICLE V – MEETINGS, Section 3. Quorum:

b. A quorum of a regular or special meeting shall be a majority of the appointed members”; a quorum (of at least 11) of the 20 filled Council Seats was present. All twenty of the 20 Council Seats were filled. No Council Seat was vacant. Approximately 46 stakeholders and guests attended.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/DISCUSSION NOTES

No Motion was made or vote taken to approve the Minutes.

III. Staff Reports

a. VNY Airport Manager

Nick Roxboro, a BOAC [Board of Airport Commissioners] Commissioner, introduced new VNY Airport Manager Jacob Haik. Mr. Haik, replacing Paul Herrera, described some of his background. He just started and will report at the next CAC meeting.

Council Member Phyllis Winger arrived at this time (7:16), making 16 Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum was eleven).

Mr. Haik encouraged letting him know likes and concerns, saying “I will always be accessible.”

b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations
There was no report.

c. VNY Airport Affairs Group
There was no report.

d. VNY Environmental Programs Group
Ryan Page, VNY Noise Officer, reported as below regarding the Early Turn Program [<https://www.iflyvny.com/no-early-turn>].

“VNY July 2024 Statistics

➤ **Early Turn Program**

July - There were 8 Jet Early Turns that were directed by ATC to turn for a variety of reasons, wind drift and other pilot safety concerns. There were 4 Early Turns that deviated from VNY No Early Turn Policy.

➤ **VNY Noise Comments**

July - There were approximately 140 (145) individuals who submitted over 7,970 comments (7,974) in July. Compared to July 2023, these numbers represent a 19% decrease in the number of individuals submitting comments and a 31% decrease in the number of comments received.

For August 2024, we have preliminary numbers showing approximately 160 (161) individuals submitting over 9,830 (9,833) comments.

➤ **Quiet Departure/Fly Friendly Program**

July - VNY had 6 Jets that exceeded their specific Target noise levels out of 2,366 jet departures to the south from runway 16R. This represents a 99.8 % compliance rate with VNY’s Fly Friendly program.”

e. VNY Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police

There was no report.

IV. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

Mr. Haik reported that he “gave a full update two weeks ago.”

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Resident Trent Dempsey reported that touch-and-go planes “sound[s] like a go-cart track above our heads.” Resident Rudy Trujillo thought that “flight patterns seem to be getting shorter.” Resident Evelyn Grey said “the amount of jet traffic is unbearable,” sometimes starting as early as around 4:38 a.m. She asked Mr. Price “to recuse” because of what she believes is his conflict of interest. Resident Dannielle Sweet said “I have an issue with the fumes”; she described medical issues. Resident Suzanne Gutierrez believed there’re increased cancer cases among residents around the Airport. Resident Kathy Cresse said “it’s never been like this . . . I’m representing 350 homeowners.”

Council Member Eliot Cohen arrived at this time (7:33), making 17 Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum was eleven).

Ms. Cresse said that “all of a sudden planes are flying in every direction.” Resident Kern Konwiser said that “the loss of property value is massive.” He said he represents 250 homeowners. H suggested that flight paths could be redirected to be over a nearby basin, and at least 1,800 feet away before turning. Resident David Rankell urged CAC Members to support Mr. Price as CAC Chair. Resident David

Hoot, the Film Liaison for Orion Street, on which many films have been made, said “we’re losing business” because of airplane noise over the area, especially “in the last six months.” He noted seemingly earlier turns. Resident Eric Belland described “how unbearable the early turns have become in our neighborhood.” He reported that, this morning, he counted nine early turns and that he can’t hear on the phone. He added that “in the last year things have gotten exponentially worse.”

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Price indicated that he had no report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Annual Election of Officers – Discussion/Action

MOTION (by Ms. Avery, seconded by Mr. Mattoo): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will vote by ballot.

MOTION RESCINDED (by Ms. Avery, seconded by Mr. Mattoo): that the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will vote by ballot.

Guest Linda Gravani noted the State Brown Act and that “all elections need to be public.” Ms. Petrus added more such information.

Mr. Decker nominated and Ms. Dahl seconded a nomination for Wayne Williams as Chair. Mr. Rodine nominated and Ms. Petrus seconded a nomination for Jason Price as Chair. Mr. Materna nominated John Parker and then Lisa Petrus as Chair; both declined the nomination. There were many comments regarding candidates Mr. Williams and Mr. Price. Mr. Williams received seven votes (Avery, Cohen, Dahl, Decker, Harris, Materna and Robinson); Mr. Price received nine votes (Chavez, Mattoo, Mendes, Molina, Parker, Parseghian, Petrus, Rodine and Winger). Mr. Price did not vote. Jason Price was **re-elected** as Chair.

Mr. Parseghian nominated and Mr. Price seconded a nomination for Lisa Petrus as Vice-Chair. Ms. Avery nominated and Ms. Harris seconded a nomination for Wayne Williams as Vice-Chair. Comments were made regarding candidates Ms. Petrus and Mr. Williams. Mr. Price and Ms. Harris confirmed that Mr. Williams said at the last CAC meeting that he (Mr. Williams) would accept the nomination. Ms. Petrus received eight votes (Chavez, Mendes, Molina, Parker, Parseghian, Petrus, Price and Winger); Mr. Williams received nine votes (Avery, Cohen, Dahl, Decker, Harris, Materna, Mattoo, Robinson and Rodine). Wayne Williams was **re-elected** as Vice-Chair.

b. Early Turns – Discussion/Action.

(Piston aircraft turning early at the Van Nuys Airport)

Mr. Price reported that he visited Mr. Konwiser’s home and flew him so that Mr. Konwiser could have an aerial view of the area. Resident Sue Steinberg requested the CAC “to understand the homeowners frustration . . . There’s going

to be more aircraft coming in for the 2028 Olympics . . .” Mr. Rankell noted that previous early turns had been attributed to flight schools. Mr. Price explained his below Motion as helping to mitigate noise.

Committee Member Doug Decker left at this time (8:27), making 16 Committee Members present.

MOTION (by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Rodine): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council Motions as follows:

Subject: Amendment to Noise Abatement Procedures for Piston Aircraft Departing to the South at VNY

Whereas, the current noise abatement procedure for piston aircraft departing to the south of Van Nuys Airport states no turns prior to the Flood Basin; and

Whereas, this procedure often results in aircraft turning over noise-sensitive areas at low altitudes and high power settings, causing significant disturbance to residents; and

Whereas, many piston aircraft in the East traffic pattern for Runway 16L are still climbing to traffic pattern altitude while on the downwind leg using the existing procedure, leading to erroneous Traffic alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) alerts for aircraft arriving to Burbank Airport on the instrument approaches for Runway 8; and

Whereas, these alerts can create unnecessary community overflights and potential safety concerns.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Van Nuys Citizens Advisory Council respectfully requests the Board of Airport Commissioners, Van Nuys Airport, and the Federal Aviation Administration collaborate to amend the existing noise abatement procedures for piston aircraft departing to the south to read "no turns prior to 1800 feet." Or other language which would cause aircraft to turn further South and be at traffic pattern altitude prior to turning downwind.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Price explained why flight paths are as they are, and that air traffic control quite frequently issues early turn instructions. Mr. Page reported that “the Early Turn Program is intended for all fixed-wing aircraft.”

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Materna, seconded by Mr. Cohen): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council amends the Motion by adding the following: in the Motion’s sixth paragraph, between the sentence ending “. . . turning downwind” and the sentence beginning “This amendment . . .,” the wording “We would like monthly reports of all early turns, categorized by aircraft type which will be helpful in identifying what the causative factors are.”

Whereas, the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council would like a monthly report of all Early Turns categorized by aircraft type.

Whereas, the current noise abatement procedure for piston aircraft departing to the south of Van Nuys Airport states no turns prior to the Flood Basin; and

Whereas, this procedure often results in aircraft turning over noise-sensitive areas at low altitudes and high power settings, causing significant disturbance to residents; and

Whereas, many piston aircraft in the East traffic pattern for Runway 16L are still climbing to traffic pattern altitude while on the downwind leg using the existing procedure, leading to erroneous Traffic alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) alerts for aircraft arriving to Burbank Airport on the instrument approaches for Runway 8; and

Whereas, these alerts can create unnecessary community overflights and potential safety concerns.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Van Nuys Citizens Advisory Council respectfully requests the Board of Airport Commissioners, Van Nuys Airport, and the Federal Aviation Administration collaborate to amend the existing noise abatement procedures for piston aircraft departing to the south to read "no turns prior to 1800 feet MSL." Or other language which would cause aircraft to turn further South and be at traffic pattern altitude prior to turning downwind.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Avery requested that more data be included in the Environmental Programs Group reports. Mr. Price explained that, once a plane's in the air, it's an FAA issue, not a LAWA issue. He said "there's no procedural change that has happened . . . We're trying to figure out" what changed in the last six to 12 months. More wording was added to the above Motion amendment. Mr. Price didn't know of a "muffler-type" technology that could reduce noise. He said the tower "is instructing people to go down into the [flood] basin . . . They're also telling" pilots to turn early "depending on traffic." It was said that the amendment is intended to reduce noise impacts on local communities, reduce unnecessary additional community overflights and improve the safety of flight operations.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Parker).

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Avery, Chavez, Cohen, Dahl, Harris, Materna, Mattoo, Mendes, Molina, Parker, Parseghian, Petrus, Price, Robinson, Rodine and Winger); zero opposed; zero abstained.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of the need for and how to get more early turns and flight path data. Mr. Materna encouraged residents to compare their data with LAWA's data.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with 15 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Avery, Chavez, Cohen, Dahl, Harris, Materna, Mattoo, Mendes, Molina, Parker, Parseghian, Petrus, Price, Robinson and Winger); one opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Rodine); zero abstained.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – Discussion/Action

No items were discussed.

IX. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

- a. The Pocket Ad Hoc Committee – Lisa Petrus
Ms. Petrus requested and it was agreed to remove the above Item from the Agenda.
- b. Vision Study Ad Hoc Committee - MaryKate Harris, John Parker and Wayne Williams
Mr. Materna requested that Mr. Haik report on Vision Study meetings that LAWA has with community groups; Mr. Haik said he'll work on that.

<https://www.iflyvny.com/vision-study>

X. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

MOTION (by Ms. Avery, seconded by Mr. Mattoo): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will agendaize discussion, action and a report regarding Sherman Way tunnel administrative office funding, past, present and future, to include resources used and an update on what's going on there.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor.

MOTION (by Mr. Materna, seconded by Mr. Robinson): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will agendaize discussion and action regarding the Part 13 complaint and LAWA's April 6th response to it.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor.

MOTION (by Mr. Materna, seconded by Mr. Robinson): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will agendaize discussion and action regarding the recent letter that was sent from John Ackerman in response to the May 7, 2024 VNY CAC Economic Policy Motion, and ask Mr. Ackerman to attend the discussion.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rodine reminded that "we only give advice."

MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor.

Mr. Materna also requested that, in November, Mr. Haik bring VNY financial information. Mr. Cohen believed that more flight operations can be done from the Antelope Valley.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Materna. The Motion was unanimously approved; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting **adjourned** at 9:30.

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by VNY CAC. The VNY CAC Minutes page is <https://www.iflyvny.com/en/community-information/citizens-advisory-council>.