

# **VAN NUYS AIRPORT (VNY) CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)**

**Meeting Minutes** -- Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Van Nuys FlyAway, 2nd Fl. Conf. Rm., 7610 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406

## **CALL TO ORDER** – CHAIRMAN JASON PRICE

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Vice-Chair Wayne Williams. Eleven Council Members were present: Alicia Avery, Doug Decker, Kathy Delle Donne, MaryKate Harris, Tom Materna, Kanchan Mattoo, Heren Molina, John Parker, Araz Parseghian, Bob Rodine (Parliamentarian) and Wayne Williams (Vice-Chair). Eliot Cohen arrived later. Six Council Members were absent: Sharon Bronson (CD12), Roslyn Dahl, Leonel Fuentes, Lisa Petrus, Jason Price (Chair) and Eric Robinson. 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,” so a quorum (at least 10) was present. Eighteen of the 20 Council Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Council Seats were vacant. Approximately 23 stakeholders and guests attended.

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/DISCUSSION NOTES.**

### a. Approval of minutes for March 12, 2024.

There was very extensive discussion about the Minutes content. Mr. Williams requested and it was agreed to TABLE approval of the March 12, 2024 meeting Minutes. No Motion was made or vote taken.

## **II. Staff Reports**

### a. VNY Airport Manager

Paul Herrera reminded that this was being recorded and that they continue to work on technology to also provide video. He mentioned that, to save time, he would not read aloud the below “Noise Symposium” section of his report and would shorten mentions of staff changes. Below is his report:

“Good Evening! Thank you all for joining us tonight. I wanted to share a few airport updates as well as community updates and opportunities to get involved with the airport.

As I shared last month I’m grateful that the Van Nuys City Council Chambers could be used to hold our VNY CAC meetings. We continue to look for other locations to hold our meeting while the space is under renovation/construction. We are using a streaming feature tonight to allow for remote access into our room. When we reach the room’s occupancy we need to have folks step outside the conference room and/or in the break room. The streaming feature will allow you to view the meeting real time and folks can step into the room during their time to provide public comment. Please be aware of the meeting location and changes that we anticipate will likely occur. The agenda is published and posted on the Friday before the VNY CAC meeting and the location is listed on the agenda.

### **Noise Symposium**

Last month, University of California, Davis, hosted its 37th Annual Aviation Noise and Emissions Symposium. The symposium brought together national and international stakeholders, including aviation industry professionals, community advocates, policymakers and forward-thinking technology pioneers to address the most pressing environmental concerns of airports. The aviation industry is constantly moving forward with crafting improvements to aircraft and flight path noise and emissions impacts. Director of Community Relations Nicole Carcel attended the symposium and joined fellow community members at the Community Educational Forum. The supplemental education program engaged participants in a dialogue and provided them with a practical understanding of real-world applications of noise and emissions and how they fit into the complex picture of environmental management, flight operations and air navigation. Also in attendance was VNY CAC member Alicia Avery and LAX/Community Noise Roundtable member Robert Nemeth, who attended as community representatives. Alicia will be providing a briefing of the Symposium later tonight.

### **NBAA S&D Conference**

Van Nuys Chief of Operations Christian Moreno and Airport Superintendent of Operations Ryan Page exhibited at the National Business Aviation Association's Annual Schedulers & Dispatchers Conference in Fort Worth, Texas in March. The three-day event provided opportunities for Christian and Ryan to answer questions from attendees who came from across the world, which included topics like VNY's environmental programs, the Quieter Nights Program and airport operations. The conference provides a venue for aviation professionals, many of whom represent business aviation services, to discuss logistical planning, advanced dispatch technologies and leading-edge equipment designed to improve operations for flight departments.

### **Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber – Networking Breakfast**

The last week in March, Van Nuys Airport was proud to sponsor the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber for their Networking Breakfast. We were glad to be able to speak to members of the Chamber and we thank them for their work in the Valley. Christian Moreno was present to welcome those in attendance and shared with all the value the Van Nuys Airport brings to the region and ways we can partner and showcase the airport in future months.

### **LAWA Leadership Changes**

We are happy to report that we have three appointments to our executive leadership team, all of whom will be focused on our people and our communities. The new appointments are Becca Doten as Chief of Staff, Robert (Rob) Lowe as Chief People and Culture Officer, and Marla Bleavins as Chief Airport Administrative Officer.

As Chief of Staff, Becca will oversee key projects that have Department and regional impact and serve as strategic counsel to the CEO. She will oversee executive and Board administration and retain leadership over the Department's external affairs functions, including Government Relations, Marketing &

Communications, and Community Relations, as well as the Strategic Initiatives Division, which is leading the coordination and preparation for FIFA 2026 and the 2028 Olympic & Paralympic Games.

As Chief People and Culture Officer, Rob will oversee Human Resources, Labor Relations and Business, Jobs and Social Responsibility, and will build a Talent Development team. He will focus on shaping LAWA's team culture and transforming our people systems and experience. Rob has more than 20 years of experience, including six years of executive human resources leadership in aviation. He recently served as the Vice President of People and Culture for Republic Airways, where he provided executive guidance and leadership for employee engagement, talent acquisition, talent management, diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as organizational effectiveness.

As Chief Airport Administrative Officer, Marla will oversee Human Resources, Commercial Development, Strategic Sourcing, Internal Audit and Ethics, and Risk Management. She will focus on how LAWA supports our people and the communities we serve, and she will lead a modernization of legacy systems and processes. Marla is returning to LAWA after serving in leadership roles across the City. In her over 20 years of service with the City of Los Angeles, Marla has served as Assistant General Manager at the Department of Convention and Tourism Development, Debt and Treasury Manager at Los Angeles World Airports, and Finance Specialist in the Office of the City Administrative Officer. She currently serves as Deputy Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer for the Port of Los Angeles.

And finally, LAWA's Chief Development Officer, Terri Mestas, will be leaving LAWA to pursue another opportunity as deputy CEO for the megaproject delivery in the Seattle Metropolitan Area. During her time at LAWA, Terri has delivered tremendous results for our \$30 billion capital improvement program (CIP). Her contributions include streamlining The Development Group's procurement processes, maximizing the economic impact of the CIP by making inclusivity a priority, establishing local craft worker and HireLAX hiring thresholds on all capital programs, and creating the Women Building Airports network.

### **Vision Study Update**

LAWA continues to work closely with other City departments and Council District offices on the City's update to the southwest valley community plans. LAWA continues to develop a vision study report and is moving to the final phase of developing and presenting the report. You can continue to provide feedback to our team(s) regarding the Vision Study by emailing [vnyvisionstudy@lawa.org](mailto:vnyvisionstudy@lawa.org).

### **Women's History Month throughout the month of March**

On March 21, LAWA leadership hosted Women's History Month, an event recognizing the contributions of women at LAX and Van Nuys Airport, as well as those who pushed the boundaries of aviation. Thank you to all of the women at Van Nuys Airport who continue to push the boundaries in fields that were

traditionally male dominated. We appreciate your contributions during Women's History Month and every month.

### **Gold Star Employee (VNY Airport)**

I wanted to give a shout out to our Van Nuys Airport employee, Lowell "Bud" Carson, who was recognized as a Gold Star Employee at the last Board of Airport Commissioners meeting. "Bud" is a major contributor to the daily successful operation of VNY. In his many years at VNY he has been instrumental in the continued development and updates to various programs, including the VNY Safety and Security Airfield Enforcement (VSAFE) and Motor Vehicle Operating Permit (MVOP) programs. He takes much pride in the work he does and is quick to offer help to internal and external stakeholders. He is a wealth of knowledge and it is evident that he is well respected and liked by his peers and the airport community in general. Bud's positivity is infectious and I appreciate all that he does to make VNY a Gold Standard airport. Thank you Bud!

### **Operations - VNY**

At VNY, there were 25,529 aircraft operations in February, including operations conducted while the Air Traffic Control Tower was closed (After Hour Operations). This represents a 8.03% increase in operations as compared to February 2023. VNY's YTD 2024 operations totals are currently up by 8.43% as compared to YTD 2023 totals.

Based on our Noise and Operations Monitoring System data, there were approximately total 5,409 jet operations at VNY in February. This is a 1.02% decrease compared to February 2023 (5,465) and a 3.21% increase compared to the previous month of January (5,241)."

#### b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations

Christian Moreno yielded his time; no report was made.

#### c. VNY Airport Affairs Group

Mr. Herrera reported for Director of Community Relations Nicole Carcel.

#### d. VNY Environmental Programs Group

Ryan Page, VNY Noise Officer, gave the following report.

➤ **Early Turn Program** [<https://www.iflyvny.com/no-early-turn>]  
**February** - 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 was no Early Turn that deviated from VNY No Early Turn Policy.

➤ **VNY Noise Comments** [<https://www.lawa.org/en/lawa-environment/noise-management/van-nuys/vny-noise-comments>]

**February** - There were approximately 150 (151) individuals who submitted over 10,800 comments (10,885) in February. Compared to February 2023, these numbers represent a 27% decrease in the number of individuals submitting comments and a 19% decrease in the number of comments received. For March 2024, we have preliminary numbers showing approximately 150 (152) individuals submitting over 10,700 (10,769) comments.

➤ **Quiet Departure/Fly Friendly Program**

[<https://www.iflyvny.com/vnyquieternights>]

**February** - VNY had 7 Jets that exceeded their specific Target noise levels out of 2,396 jet departures to the south from runway 16R. This represents a 99.7% compliance rate with VNY's Fly Friendly program.

Mr. Herrera listed companies that achieved Green Program certification.

e. VNY Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police

Mr. Herrera reported that "Sgt. Clint Beacom has promoted on to Lieutenant and has transitioned out of VNY returning to LAX. He too, is off enjoying some well-deserved vacation time before assuming his new role as Lieutenant at LAX Patrol Services on April 7, 2024, under the command of Captain Belinda Joseph. We thank Sgt. Beacom for his years of serving VNY APD as Assistant Officer in Charge and more recently Acting Officer in Charge and wish Lt. Beacom success in his new position. Lt. Darren Gilbert will be returning to VNY as APD's Officer In Charge under the continued command of Captain Boisselle, effective April 7, 2024."

**III. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY**

Below is Mr. Herrera's BOAC report:

**"BOAC ITEMS**

Since the VNY CAC Meeting held on Tuesday, March 12, we had 1 Regular Meeting of the BOAC on Mar 21<sup>st</sup>.

**CONSENT ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**

**On Thursday March 21st, at 10:00 a.m.**

[RESOLUTION NO.- One \(1\)-year Contract with Sharp Electronics Corporation: By joining City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Contract 01885, covering managed print services \(multi-function photocopiers\) for Los Angeles World Airports, for cost not to exceed \\$550,000](#)

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the request is to join Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Contract 01885 with Sharp Electronics Corporation for a one (1)-year contract, in a not-to-exceed amount of \$550,000, to provide managed print services (multi-function photocopiers) to support daily operations at Los Angeles International

Airport and Van Nuys Airport. The current Los Angeles World Airports contract expires March 31, 2024.

*RESOLUTION NO. - Five (5)-year Contract with the County of Los Angeles: With a five (5)-year renewal option, covering pest control services at Los Angeles International Airport and Van Nuys Airport, for cost not to exceed \$2,800,000*

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the action is to establish a five (5)-year contract, with a five (5)-year renewal option, with the County of Los Angeles for pest control services at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Van Nuys Airport (VNY) for bee control and pest and rodent abatement throughout the Air Operations Area (AOA), fields, and other landscaped areas located within LAX and VNY, to mitigate wildlife and bird strikes on the AOA, and to protect the health and safety of employees and guests.

## **REGULAR ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**

**On Thursday March 21st, at 10:00 a.m.**

None

## **CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

**On Thursday March 21st, at 10:00 a.m.**

None

### **As it relates to VNY CAC Communication Process Regarding LAWA Procurements**

A Non-Aeronautical RFPs that was posted and is now closed is for an Award of Lease to a successful bidder for Roof-Top Solar for up to eight (8) rooftop locations at the Van Nuys Airport. This item will be placed on an upcoming BOAC Meeting Agenda.

Another set of Non-Aeronautical RFPs that is being considered are for the following locations:

1. 16800 Roscoe Blvd (RFP 212463) – This is for the current Home Depot site on the northwest corner of the VNY Airport on the corner of Roscoe and Balboa Bld. Looking to have a Big Box Warehouse operate on that site. This opened on January 24<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to close on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm.
2. 7277 Valjean Ave (RFP 213052) - LAWA is seeking proposals from qualified individuals or firms to lease a non-aviation property. This is currently the Airtel Plaza Hotel site. While the footprint of the current lease has been modified, the majority of the leasehold is intended to be used for a hotel through this project. This Opened on February 23rd and closed on March 28th at 2pm.

3. 6550 Odessa St. (Golf Course site). We plan to release an RFP for the site location south of the Van Nuys Airport between Vanowen and Victory and Odessa and Valjean. This is for a Commercial property Non-Aeronautical use. The RFP has not been released, but we plan to have it released within the next 30-60 days.
4. Balboa Brick Site. (1-acre site). We plan to release an RFP for the site location on Roscoe Blvd between Balboa Blvd and Hayvenhurst Ave. Leasing of land and existing improvements.

RFPs, once the BOAC and City Council awards these lease(s), the proposer will move into the project phase where the successful bidder will be invited to make a project presentation to the VNY CAC to solicit input and feedback. In addition, the CAC and members of the community will be provided an opportunity to comment on the development as they progress through the entitlement and/or environmental process as required by the City.

These RFPs and any future ones that are released by LAWA can be found at <https://www.rampla.org>”

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Clay Lacy Aviation Safety and Security Manager Mark Pisketti noted that Clay Lacy employs around 10,500 people, including around 100 at the Airport maintenance hangar. He suggested re-starting the RFP process. Clay Lacy Senior Vice-President of Strategic Initiatives Dondi Pangalangan said the company is “committed to environmental stewardship . . . dedicated to environmental responsibility.” Neighbor Steve Leffert requested that the Meeting Agenda and Minutes be posted before meetings, and that Agendas show public posting locations. Long-time nearby resident Danielle Sweet believed that “we need a green space between the Airport” and the nearby area. Nearby resident Sue Steinberg was concerned about travelers, especially on private/charter jets, and “inadequate security,” since it was reported that General Aviation airports account for more than 75% of all U.S. air traffic, and that TSA and aviation industry lobbying groups focus primarily on identifying terrorism threats while giving minimal attention to the possibility of General Aviation aircraft and airports being used for illegal drug, gun and sex trafficking – or other unlawful activities. She urged “TSA-type screening” and to “take preventative measures now,” and wanted this to be agendized.

Resident Suzanne Gutierrez asked why LAWA hadn’t submitted the overdue requested report for CF 22-1489 to the Trade Travel and Tourism Committee; she said it was due in June 2023 and that LAWA should not . . . cannot . . . use Traci Park’s ban of agenda items for two reasons: LAWA’s due date pre-dated that ban and that ban expired January 2024. Ms. Gutierrez reported that both CD6 and CD11 have requested multiple times to receive that report; as of April 1, 2024, LAWA had not sent it. Resident Fran Potaski was concerned about VNY noise,

saying there were 48 departures over her home between 4:00 and 7:00 a.m., some “way over 80 decibels . . . There are early turns . . . [that’re] not jets . . . They go right over my home . . . This has been going on since 2017-2018.” Resident Jacqueline Torosian said “we don’t have any rest . . . The propellers make over 80 decibels of noise; I have measured . . . Van Nuys was supposed to be compatible with the surrounding community.”

## **V. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Mr. Williams led brief discussion of agendaizing Agenda requests.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Noise Symposium – Presentation/Discussion**

Ms. Avery gave a slide presentation on the March 4-6, 2024 Aviation Noise and Emissions Symposium that included the following slides and topics:

- Reframing Community Exposures to Better Capture Aviation Related Health Effects
- Aircraft Sound is a Form of Pollution and Should be Treated as a Public Health Hazard
- The FAA Allows Americans to be Exposed to Unsafe Levels of Aviation Noise
- Is DNL [Day-night sound level] the correct metric for aircraft noise?
- Beyond the Part 150 – Finding Noise Abatement Solutions
- A Regional Approach to Addressing Airplane Noise and Emissions Concerns
- Best practices
- Acoustic Research & Development
- Perspectives on Environmental Impacts and Environmental Justice
- Preparing For Electric Aviation
- Innovative Strategies for Quantifying and Communicating Aviation Noise Impacts
- Measuring and Modeling Air Quality Emissions

*Council Member Eliot Cohen arrived at 8:11 during the presentation, making 12 Council Members present.*



Ms. Avery noted that a San Jose-area lead study released August 3, 2021 said “Key finding: The continued use of leaded aviation fuel has contributed to increased blood lead levels, particularly for those within a half-mile of the airport.” She suggested more community education regarding “how the aviation community works.” She said the Symposium addressed Part 150 regarding unleaded fuel and that “it’s not as expensive as it seems.” She suggested a “voluntary letter of agreement” for community engagement. She said to “listen to the community” and “flight training is critical and essential,” as is “pilot education.” Mr. Rodine, at his own personal expense, also attended the Symposium. He believed that the Symposium health presentation was very incomplete and should’ve addressed many other factors. He noted that different professionals have different preferred maximum noise level metrics and thresholds. A previous large-scale (300,000 people) study noted “different sensitivities to noise exposure.”

Ms. Torosian said Airport noise “has increased . . . The aircraft are getting older . . . making more noise.” She said that manufacturers don’t make planes less noisy because it costs more; the noise is “very dangerous for the cardiovascular system”; and the Airport “has the authority” to enforce rules. Mr. Parker requested to consider agendaizing discussion of the use of unleaded fuel, and discussion of the status of eVTOL (Electric Vertical Take Off and Landing) aircraft. Ms. Molina said there’s a “need to educate . . . the public” and believed there’s a whole lot of miscommunication. Mr. Williams requested agendaizing forming an ad hoc committee “that includes the public and the aviation community . . . about what the Van Nuys Airport can do based on” issues addressed at the Symposium. He took an unofficial vote of Council Members that “appeared to be unanimous” in agreement to forming such a committee.

b. Sherman Way Tunnel Maintenance – Discussion/Action.

Mr. Williams reviewed some Van Nuys Airport history. He believed that the Tunnel is for the Airport’s benefit, but that the City and taxpayers are being asked to pay for it.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Avery, seconded by Mr. Decker): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council moved the following:

I MOVE that the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) supports Motion 24-0356 introduced on March 22nd, 2024 by CD6 Councilmember Imelda Padilla that instructs the Bureau of Street Services and requests the Airport Department, with the assistance of the Police Department and the Department of Public Works Office of Community Beautification, and in consultation with Council District 6 and the Van Nuys Airport Association to develop a comprehensive plan for maintenance, security, and beautification of the Sherman Way Tunnel and to report with any recommendations necessary to implement the plan.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the CAC supports City Council’s instruction that the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the above-mentioned departments and bureaus, identifies potential funding sources for implementation of a

Sherman Way Tunnel Management Plan, including funding needed for ongoing cleaning and maintenance.

I FURTHER MOVE, that CAC recommend City Council instruct the City Attorney and appropriate departments to ascertain if Bonds were used for all or a portion of the Runway expansion and if so, to identify if airport revenue was utilized to secure and repay said Bonds and/or if the FAA (then CAA - Civil Aeronautical Authority) declared the project (runway segment) eligible for Federal-Aid Airport Funds. This information is critical moving forward in respect to funding responsibilities for the maintenance of the tunnel's structure WHEREAS, the tunnel itself serves as the support system and foundation of the VNY airport 16/34 runway. While the public sidewalk and asphalt roadway are clearly the responsibility of the City, a grey area exists as to the responsibility of the tunnel walls and ceiling itself.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Parker objected to the third paragraph. Mr. Materna said the third paragraph was "critical" and noted previous LAWA funding of Tunnel maintenance. Mr. Rodine was not sure the third paragraph was necessary and thought that the Motion "may be redundant." He said the Tunnel exists "to ensure the continuity of Sherman Way," not for aircraft. Ms. Avery said the third paragraph is "to identify this grey area . . . to get the ball rolling . . . It's . . . about bringing all these parties together." Mr. Cohen said "this discussion is obscene" and believed that LAWA should maintain the Tunnel. Mr. Williams believed that the City's Street Services Dept. should maintain it.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Decker).

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 12 voters present with 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Avery, Cohen, Decker, Delle Donne, Harris, Materna, Mattoo, Molina, Parseghian and Williams); two opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Parker and Rodine); zero abstained.

**MAIN MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 12 voters present with 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Avery, Cohen, Decker, Delle Donne, Harris, Materna, Mattoo, Molina, Parseghian and Williams); two opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Parker and Rodine); zero abstained.

Ms. Steinberg said Tunnel cleaning "was done for years"; it used to cost "\$70,000 per month."

**VII. OLD BUSINESS** – Discussion/Action

- a. VNAA proposed VNY Tenant Tours – Discussion.  
The above Item was not addressed.

**VIII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS**

- a. Membership Committee – Araz Parseghian  
Mr. Parseghian reported that there was one Council vacancy; he's working with the Mayor's Office to fill it.

- b. Vision Study Ad Hoc Committee - MaryKate Harris, John Parker and Wayne Williams.  
Mr. Williams reported that the Committee did not meet. [See <https://www.iflyvny.com/vision-study.>]

## **IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Materna, seconded by Mr. Decker): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will agendaize for the May meeting to have discussion and possible action to make recommendations to BOAC and the L.A. City Council regarding the Van Nuys Airport Financial Budget and Fuel Fee revenue.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Rodine recommended to Mr. Materna to write to Mr. Price requesting agendaizing.

**MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 12 voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Avery, Cohen, Decker, Delle Donne, Harris, Materna, Mattoo, Molina, Parker, Parseghian and Williams); zero opposed (“No” or “Nay”); one abstained (Rodine).

Mr. Rodine commented that unleaded fuel is available. Mr. Cohen believed that LAWA has “institutional intransigence” regarding airport operations, noting greatly increased flights over his home. Mr. Williams noted Norway’s extensive use of electric vehicles.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT:**

The Meeting **adjourned** at 9:33 p.m.