

TRADE, TRAVEL, AND TOURISM

MOTION

On November 12, 2020 a small plane missed the runway at Whiteman Airport and landed on a nearby residential street. Preliminary information from the Federal Aviation Administration indicates the plane was approaching the runway when it crashed. The accident is a reminder of the public safety threat that Whiteman Airport has long posed to the community of Pacoima; a community that derives no value from it's operation, but is subject to all the negative impacts.

Whiteman Airport is owned and operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Its location near the Burbank and Van Nuys airports makes navigating the busy air traffic difficult and complex. The National Transportation Safety Board's database shows fifteen aviation accidents related to Whiteman Airport since 2009.

In addition to the accident risks, the airport also poses environmental risks to the surrounding community. According to a 2007 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report, the takeoff and landings per day produce large quantities of toxic pollutants, such as lead, benzene, acrolein, 1, 3-butadiene, and formaldehyde. These public safety and environmental risks require serious analysis and public disclosure.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the County of Los Angeles with the assistance of the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board be requested to report to the City Council on the November 12th incident.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst with the assistance of the City Attorney be instructed to report on the steps necessary to complete an environmental analysis establishing the toxic nature of Whiteman Airport's presence and impact on the surrounding Pacoima community, as well as legal review of FAA assurances of any and all grant agreements and complete an economic analysis for alternative uses for the site.

I FURTHER MOVE that the County of Los Angeles with the assistance of Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Attorney be requested to report on the steps necessary to close Whiteman Airport.

I FURTHER MOVE that the California Attorney General's Bureau of Environmental Justice be requested to provide input and expertise in the aforementioned evaluation of Whiteman Airport.

PRESENTED BY: _____
MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____
NURY MARTINEZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 6th District