



August 6, 2015

The Honorable Mary Hughes Hynes
Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chairwoman Hynes:

While aviation technology has made airplanes significantly quieter during the past several decades, aircraft noise continues to be a challenge for communities near flight paths. Over the past year and a half, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Airports Authority) has received an increased number of noise complaints from communities near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (Reagan National). The Airports Authority has held meetings with several of these communities and their elected officials to better understand issues of concern and has facilitated participation in these discussions by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and airlines operating at Reagan National.

During recent public meetings, FAA officials and others endorsed the idea of convening a forum of community representatives from the multiple jurisdictions around Reagan National in Virginia and the District of Columbia. The jurisdictions were selected based upon the proximity to flight paths and/or the current level of public concern and individual inquiries regarding aircraft noise. Such multi-jurisdictional forums, which have been useful at other U.S. airports, are intended to provide an opportunity for inclusive conversations about aircraft noise and to guide and inform cooperative efforts to address noise-related concerns.

As a result of our earlier meetings, including a recent session in Arlington hosted by Hon. Libby Garvey, the FAA and the airlines are engaged to evaluate potential procedural changes that might best address community concerns, but it is essential that any solutions considered have broad-based community interest. Therefore, the Airports Authority is taking the initiative to establish a Reagan National Airport Community Working Group to explore potential solutions that could benefit all communities. The Working Group is intended to advance the noise discussion beyond past forums, which have centered on the airing of specific individual and neighborhood concerns, toward identifying and recommending practical noise-mitigation initiatives for the entire Reagan National area by the summer of 2016.

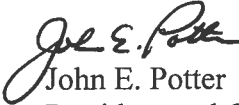
The Airports Authority is proposing that you designate two citizen representatives for Arlington County to be part of the Working Group. A charter for the Working Group is enclosed. The Airports Authority would like to convene the Working Group in the coming weeks and schedule regular meetings with stakeholders representing the community, the FAA and the

The Honorable Mary Hughes Hynes
Arlington County Board
Page 2

airlines. The Airports Authority is committed to facilitating these discussions with the goal of improving the quality of life for our neighbors. Elected officials in Arlington County or your staff also would be welcome to attend the Working Group meetings.

If Arlington County would like to take part, please send the names and contact information of your designees to Michael Cooper, the Airports Authority's Manager of State and Local Government Affairs, at (703) 417-8787. Mr. Cooper also is available to answer any questions. The Airports Authority appreciates your cooperation and interest, and we look forward to constructive discussions of this important community issue.

Sincerely,



John E. Potter
President and Chief Executive Officer

JEP:dm

Enclosure

Reagan National Airport Community Working Group Organizational Charter

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is establishing the Reagan National Airport Community Working Group in response to increasing community concerns regarding aircraft noise affecting residential areas in the District of Columbia and Virginia along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers.

The Working Group is comprised of community representatives from Wards 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 of Washington, D.C., and representatives from the Virginia jurisdictions of Arlington County, the City of Alexandria and the Dranesville and Mount Vernon Supervisor Districts of Fairfax County. An elected official representing each community selects citizens to represent the jurisdiction in the Working Group.

The Working Group is designed to inject broad-based community input into noise-related discussions, and to move the noise discussion beyond the airing of individual and neighborhood complaints toward a cooperative effort to identify practical solutions and recommend those solutions to the Federal Aviation Administration, which must approve most changes that would apply to aircraft noise abatement regulations and procedures. Therefore, the Working Group's meetings will be technically focused working sessions rather than public discussion forums.

The Working Group will be joined at its meetings by representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration and airlines operating at Reagan National, as well as representatives of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and its Noise Information Office. Elected officials who selected the Working Group members, as well as members of the elected official's staff, also are welcome to attend Working Group meetings.

The Airports Authority will convene the Working Group and serve as facilitator for the group's meetings and its formulation of recommendations. The Airports Authority anticipates that the Working Group will meet quarterly to share ideas, discuss potential strategies and evaluate potential solutions in consultation with the FAA, airlines and other participants. Recommendations approved and endorsed by the Working Group will be forwarded periodically to the Federal Aviation Administration for consideration.

Topics considered by the Working Group could include air safety requirements, current operating conditions affecting air traffic patterns occurring at Reagan National, existing and emerging technologies that affect aircraft movements and performance, roles and responsibilities of government and business entities related to aircraft noise, and experiences of other airport communities in addressing noise issues.

The Working Group would complete its work by the summer of 2016 by presenting its final recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration.