

## ENCINO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING

#### MINUTES

**Tuesday, November 16, 2021 @ 4:00pm**

**Voting Members – ENC Members:** Jim Esterle\* (Co-Chair), Victoria Miller\* (Co-Chair), Andrew Zucker,\* **Stakeholders:** Robert Bramen, Jacquie Lange, John Vernagus, Barry Heins, Penny Alpert

**Alternate Committee Members:** N/A

1. **Call to Order. Start recording. Roll call. Determination of Quorum:** Quorum met--7 Committee Members in attendance--Jim Esterle was absent, Jacquie Lange and Penny Alpert arrived after the meeting had started
2. **Approval of August 16, 2021 Airport Committee Minutes:** Motion: John V, Second: Robert B—MSP 4-0-1  
**Motion, Discussion, and Vote May Be Taken On All Items**
3. **New and Old Business**
  - **FAA Beginning Environmental (EIR) Study for VNY:** Timeline is 3-12 months for study to be completed. Hoping for a public meeting to update residents of progress. Implementation could be up to 2 years.
  - **City Council Redistricting Implications for VNY CAC:** It is clear that the Encino/ENC will now be part of CD4—Councilmember Nithya Raman’s District. It is also clear that the composition of the CAC needs to not just be Council Districts, but also Neighborhood Councils that are impacted. It is important to note that the Neighborhood Council system was not in existence when the VNY CAC was founded. This needs to be evaluated. The Mayor still has 2 open positions on the CAC that have not been filled for quite awhile, even with many requests from the community at large. The CAC needs to update their woefully outdated Bylaws—they should be compelled to updated them regularly (annually or bi-annually).
  - **VNY Growth:** FAA growth charts show increase in flights from 2019 to 2021, not including 2020 during the height of the pandemic. Increased jet operations are partly a result of Santa Monica Airport closing, and maintenance centers at Long Beach Jet Center moving to VNY. Meanwhile there is no capacity limit at VNY and nothing to prevent or restrict increased operations. Important note: there are currently no landing fees at VNY, none. There was discussion about how residents were able to get Santa Monica Airport closed—it began over 20-25 years ago, and the first thing that happened is the runway was shortened. They also stopped taking/accepting federal funds, keeping in mind that the City of Santa Monica has its own local government. BUR has decreased some flights, but flight paths for arrivals are changing. There was discussion about the Scheduled Operations at General Aviation Airports document which does make way for some scheduled jet services (document attached).

- **VNY Quieter Skies Program:** Program began around June 2020, in the 2nd quarter of the year, during the height of the pandemic. LAWA claims success—which is dubious, but if it is successful, why not expand on it? LAWA claims there has been a drop in overnight flights from 11pm-7am from 12.3 to 10.3. There is supposed to be a report for incentives but it has never been made public if it even exists. Are they tracking violators? (document attached)
  - **Commercialization of VNY--Charter Jet Sales and Advertising:** See 3C: There was discussion about the Scheduled Operations at General Aviation Airports document which does make way for some scheduled jet services (document attached)
  - **Update on Lawsuit Against FAA:** Save Our Skies group headed by Christine Kim is proceeding with their lawsuit. Hoping to get support from other groups such as Tree People and the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy (the latter declined)
  - **Lack of Recognition by LAWA, VNY, VNY-CAC on Motions Passed by the ENC and SONC:** We need to review what can be done to potentially sanction the CAC, or file a formal complaint. Emails, motions, and other communications are not responded to nor acknowledged by the CAC Chair/President. Complaint should be directed to the BOAC and LAWA leadership. \*Next VNY CAC meeting will be on January 4, 2022.
4. **Public Comment:** None  
Public Comments on non-agenda items is limited to TWO (2) MINUTES per speaker. Time may be adjusted at the Chair's discretion.
  5. **Board Member Comment on Non Agenda Items:** 1) We need to get Congressman Brad Sherman to do something similar to Congressman Maxine Waters did in regard to air noise in their community. 2) There needs to be a Valley Community Roundtable formed much like the LAX Community Roundtable. 3) Whiteman Airport won't be able to close for at least 20 years due to contract for federal funding—even though the LA City Council has been trying to close it. 4) Next ENC Airport Committee meeting suggested for Tuesday 1/11/22—to be confirmed.
  6. **Adjournment by 5:30pm**