

RESOLUTION NO. 33 -2008
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor and Council

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CERTAIN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO NOISE ABATEMENT/POLLUTION CONTROL, MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES; AND SAFETY AREAS/ZONES AND OPPOSING THE PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION AT THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY AIRPORT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Airport has been engaged in a master plan update for the past five years, and with its consultant, C & S Engineers (the "Consultant"), have described the findings of the master plan update at several meetings with neighboring municipal, advisory, and focus groups in the communities bordering the Airport, including the City of Richmond Heights; and

WHEREAS, the recommended plan presented to the communities by the Airport Director and the Consultant, labeled Alternative #38, proposes as its major features the following:

- Safety measures described as "Engineered Materials Arresting Systems" at either end of the runway, designed to limit damage to persons, aircraft and other property in the event of a faulty takeoff or landing;
- Rehabilitation of the existing runway concrete which is said to be in a seriously deteriorated condition;
- Construction of a structure labeled a "hush hut" which is designed to capture much of the noise created by jet aircraft during engine "run-ups"; and
- Extension of the current 5,102 ft. runway to 6,002 ft. requiring the relocation of a portion of Richmond Road to the west; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Richmond Heights, after due consideration and deliberation with their residents, County Airport representatives and the Consultant have determined that they cannot endorse Alternative #38 in its entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: The major features of Alternative #38 listed above, with the exception of the runway extension, are supported by the City of Richmond Heights.

Section 2: Extension of the current 5,102 ft. runway to 6,002 ft. requiring the relocation of a portion of Richmond Road, is not supported because it is deemed that the proposed expansion of the runway length or the type of use of the Airport to be detrimental to the public health, safety and general welfare of City of Richmond Heights residents and the surrounding area for the following reasons:

- a. As demonstrated by the Consultant's own statistical data, extension of the runway will increase the noise levels currently endured by the residents living under the flight path of Runway 24;
- b. Extension of the runway will encourage the growth of flights during the voluntary curfew hours which are often ignored by current airport users;
- c. Public testimony indicated that planes would be flying closer to City residents' roof tops, presently considered extremely close to roof tops; and
- d. Relocation of Richmond Road, as described in the highway consultant's original 1992 feasibility study with its double reverse curves, would create an unsafe driving condition for motorists, as well as the City's emergency vehicles.

Section 3: This Council finds the following to be desirable Airport use limitations and regulations generally considered to maintain and/or improve quality of life in the City:

- a. Limit aircraft usage class to 60,000 pounds or less; and
- b. Monitor and regulate noise, pollution and time-of-day operation.

Section 4: The City of Richmond Heights is committed to working closely with the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, the County Airport personnel and other County officials to maintain and enhance the economic viability of the County Airport and to doing so in a manner that will enhance the quality of life for City residents.

Section 5: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 6: This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure in furtherance of the public health, safety and general welfare of the City and its residents and which needs to be forwarded to the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners and other appropriate officials prior to the Board's meeting to review the Alternative #38 proposal on April 24, 2008; wherefore, provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of five members of Council, it shall take effect immediately upon its passage and execution by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____

Daniel J. Ursu, Mayor

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council

David H. Roche
President of Council