

To: Paul Bowers, Airport Manager, Merrill Field
From: Jim Richardson
Re: response to your e-mail of 6/5 to Ms. Gray-Jackson regarding
operating agreement with helicopter operations out of Merrill field as
they affect Rogers Park
Date: June 11, 2014

I appreciate your efforts to work towards a solution to reduce helicopter noise conflicts in Rogers Park. However, I was disappointed that the operators did not agree with the solution I proposed in my communication with you dated 5/21/2014. In my opinion, there is a clear solution to forego using RWY 34 for repeated loop touch and go training flights.

I do appreciate that your letter outlined a written operating guidelines. This document will give us clear direction to address problems if the agreement is breached, causing problems in the neighborhood.

I am concerned with some of the imprecise language presented in your letter. For example using the phrase in paragraph six that Tanalian Company will endeavor to not use RWY 34 if it can be avoided (*emphasis is mine*). Clearly, the use of RWY 34 could be avoided if they chose to do so. This language gives Tanalian wiggle room to cause problems. I am also concerned about their 'concession' to only 10 flights per day on RWY 34. This is certainly a sufficient number of flights to create a problem if they are not handled in accordance with the guidelines in the operating guidelines. With the option to use Bryant field, it is certainly not clear that 10 flights per day should ever be necessary.

The operating agreement also says that they will hug the upwind side of the greenbelt to prevent incursions into the main part of Rogers Park on the downwind side of the greenbelt. I hope they follow through with this stated intention.

In discussions with my neighbors there is general acceptance of the operating agreement you presented. We will watch with interest to see how it works. To fairly evaluate the operator's good faith in following this agreement, we would like to see a functioning logging system in place so that you, or the public, can inquire about the number of complaints received. We hope this system will be in place soon.

We plan include this concern on the Rogers Park Community Council meeting agenda in September. We will inform our neighbors of the discussions we have had on this matter and provide them a copy of your June 5, 2014 operating agreement for helicopter operations in Merrill field as they relate to Rogers Park. Hopefully, by that time you may be able to provide a record of noise complaints received.

We sincerely hope that the operators at Merrill Field will take this operating plan to heart and prevent future conflict.

Sincerely,

Jim Richardson
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