

# Rogers Park Community Council

(including Anchor Park, College Village, Woodside East and Rogers Park)

Marilyn Pillifant, President  
2436 Glenwood St.  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
(907) 276-2660  
[pilli@alaska.net](mailto:pilli@alaska.net)

Jim Richardson, Vice-President  
Jim Wright, Secretary  
Clare Boersma, Treasurer  
Iris Matthews, Past President

Date: May 30, 2016

To: Mayor Ethan Berkowitz  
Anchorage Assembly  
Federation of Community Councils

## **A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MERRILL FIELD MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS Merrill Field's close proximity to Rogers Park and its activities affect all of the residents of our neighborhood, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods;

WHEREAS the residents of our community appreciate and utilize the Chester Creek greenbelt areas discussed as potential areas for different types of economic development at the airport;

WHEREAS our residents, as well as residents from other neighborhoods in the area use and treasure Sitka Street Park – as it currently exists;

WHEREAS the wetlands to the south of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the rerouted flow of the North Fork of Chester Creek are inappropriate areas for Merrill Field development projects because of their essential value in filtering and protecting water quality in Chester Creek from pollutants leeching out from the old dump site under Merrill Field;

WHEREAS these wetlands directly south of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue provide essential water management functions that help prevent flooding of homes abutting the Chester Creek Greenbelt and provides important habitat for fish and wildlife living in and utilizing the area; and

WHEREAS our residents are impacted by noise from aircraft landing and taking off from Merrill Field and in particular have been strongly impacted in the past several years from new activities from helicopter noise associated with training businesses operating out of Merrill Field.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rogers Park Community Council urges the Municipality of Anchorage acting through the Merrill Field Manager, to make the following changes and corrections to the Draft Merrill Field Airport Master Plan:

1. Remove the development options for the areas of the plan south of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and remove the development option to “relocate” 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue 80 feet to the south (intruding on the Chester Creek Greenbelt wetlands).
2. Remove the proposed option to relocate Sitka Street Park.
3. Update and correct the sections of the report dealing with complaints and airport noise to include the helicopter noise problems of the past several years, adding a description of the meetings between community council members, Merrill Field representatives, Anchorage Assembly members and industry representatives that have been held to try to minimize this problem and include a copy of the **Merrill field Helicopter Operations Protocol** that is now in place to guide management of helicopter operations at the field.
4. Include a description of the role of Bryant Field in addressing the need for and off-airport location for helicopter instruction of touch-and-go flight training operations in the section on helicopter noise.
5. Expand and correct the section of the report addressing outreach to Community Councils and residents of neighborhoods surrounding Merrill Field to include Rogers Park, Airport Heights, Anchor Park and College Village. For example, the section on noise issues said that a neighborhood outreach program was conducted, but no residents attending the RPCC meeting of 5/9/2016 could recall being contacted. Similarly, Section 5.3 of the report references a goal to “Work with the Fairview Community Council”. There is no mention of Rogers Park Community Council or Airport Heights, or Anchor Park, or College Village. All of these neighborhoods are directly affected by activities at Merrill Field and should have all been contacted during the development of this Draft Master Plan.
6. Other specific comments on the pages (3) (4) and (5) should also be addressed in the revised Master Plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Rogers Park Community Council this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016, by a vote of 15 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

Respectfully,



Marilyn Pillifant, President  
Rogers Park Community Council