

A Resolution relating to the update of the Merrill Field Airport Master Plan

Whereas, the Fairview Community Council is officially recognized by the Municipality of Anchorage as the designated forum for civic participation at the neighborhood level, and

Whereas, Council boundaries extend over the western third of the Municipally owned and operated Merrill Field Airport, and

Whereas, the operational behavior of aircraft activities at Merrill Field have raised “issues of concern” within the Council, and

Whereas, these issues of concern include:

1. Excessive noise from low-flying aircraft deviating from published departure/approach procedures.
2. Excessive noise from revving aircraft engines at west side T-hangers
3. Excessive encroachment of industrial use upon residential commercial properties,
4. Excessive removal of private property from the tax rolls for non-revenue producing aviation use,
5. Excessive number of aircraft crashes with associated loss of life, significant injuries and property damage.

Whereas, the current effort by Merrill Field to update its Airport Master Plan presents an opportunity to address these issues of concern in a substantive and meaningful way, and

Whereas, recent Phase I work tasks and published deliverables reveal inadequate attention to Council issues of concern, and

Whereas, this lack of attention is documented by:

1. No discussion of the number, location, severity or cause of aircraft crashes in the published chapters nor in the draft alternatives,
2. Proposed expansion of Runway 7 Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) that would eliminate viable commercial properties,
3. Continued acquisition of residential properties of runway __ thus destroying a neighborhood niche of single-family, owner-occupied homes,
4. No discussion of T-hanger noise and need for mitigation,
5. Quantitative data acquired from the 2013 Noise Study showing noise events above 65 dB in the middle of a residential neighborhood exceeding 100 unique events in a 24-hour period.

Whereas, there is acknowledgement that Merrill Field has shown some sensitivity to Council concerns by adding a noise study to the update of the Airport Master Plan using FAA Part 150 guidelines and hosting two noise workshops at the Fairview Community Recreation Center, and

Whereas, it has been pointed out that Part 150 guidelines for development of noise contours is meant for airports with regular scheduled commercial aviation services operating 365 days a year while Merrill Field activities are heavily seasonal in nature thus resulting in unrepresentative noise contours for the peak activity periods, and

Whereas, the Council passed Resolution xxxx requesting the AMP process include analysis of radar data to document prevailing aircraft patterns

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Fairview Community Council acting as the voice of residents, businesses and property owners in the area immediately west of Merrill Field Airport makes the following recommendations:

- ☒ Include support for community oriented improvements at Sitka Park including, but not limited to, a new paved trail connection along the eastern edge of Sitka Park southward from the entrance to the Chester Creek Greenbelt,
- ☒ Request the removal of recommendations that remove private property from the tax rolls to support non-tax producing aviation uses. This includes no further acquisition of private property along Orca Street and no expansion of the RPZ for Runway 7.
- ☒ Address the RPZ for Runway 7 using a displaced threshold or other technique that eliminates the harmful neighborhood impacts of a weakened commercial economic base,
- ☒ Include a recommendation for design and construction of a noise barrier along the western and southwestern edges of the field to mitigate the negative impacts of revving aircraft engines by users of the T-hangers and taxiing aircraft,
- ☒ Address the issue of public safety by quantifying for the public record the location, date and severity aircraft crashes associated with aviation activities at Merrill Field Airport,
- ☒ Include a recommendation that flight training activities operating in a circling pattern around Merrill Field maintain a minimum height of at least 900 feet about residential housing,
- ☒ Address the issue of noise mitigation through the inclusion of recommendations that:
 - Merrill Field FAA Tower to adopt an official policy of minimizing the number of approvals for variances from the published arrival and departures procedures for aircraft,
 - Merrill Field FAA Tower to maintain a record of early departures by date, time and flight and submit the data on a quarterly basis to the Municipal Airport Aviation Advisory Commission for inclusion review and inclusion into the public record,
 - Merrill Field implement a more robust pilot education program on the Good Neighbor Policy, the issue of negative noise impacts and aircraft safety procedures,
 - Merrill Field implement a permanent noise monitoring program to include installation of strategically placed noise detection and reporting equipment within the neighborhood of Fairview with options for expansion to the neighborhoods of Rogers Park and Airport Heights,
- ☒ Include the recommendation that Merrill Field take the lead in promoting the development of an accountability mechanism for repeat and flagrant violators of the

Merrill Field Good Neighbor Policy to include, but not be limited to, adoption of a fine-based Municipal Ordinance.

Resolution is or is not approved/disapproved by a vote of _____ Ayes, _____ Nays and _____ Abstains on the _____ day of December 2013.

Attested to by:

SJ Klein, President
Fairview Community Council