

**VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday October 5, 2021**

A virtual meeting of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair, Jason Price. Members present: Wayne Williams, Robert Rodine, John Parker, Thomas Materna, Lisa Petrus, Eric Robinson, Ryan Sanders, Kimberly Chan, Marykate Harris, Eliot Cohen, Kathy Delle Donne, Wendy Saunders, Leonel Fuentes and Heren Molina.

Absent: Araz Parseghian and Harold Lee.

The council approved the minutes from the September 7, 2021 meeting with one correction by a rollcall vote of eleven "affirmative" votes (K. Delle Donne, J. Parker, R. Rodine, M. Harris, L. Petrus, E. Robinson, L. Fuentes, R. Sanders, K. Chan, H. Molina, W. Williams); and one "no" vote (T. Materna).

**I. STAFF REPORTS:**

**A. Flora Margheritis, Airport Manager:**

Ms. Margheritis congratulated the Chair and Vice Chair on their re-election for another term.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on VNY staff, patrons and stakeholders. She stated that LAWA is pleased that many passengers and employees continue to take advantage of LAX's on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Unfortunately, LAFD is no longer able to provide COVID-19 vaccines at LAX and their final day providing COVID-19 vaccines at LAX was on September 25th. LAWA is very grateful to LAFD for all the work that they did to provide vaccines at LAX for passengers and employees. Since the start of the public vaccination program, more than 11,800 free Johnson & Johnson vaccines have been provided. LAWA is working with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to see if they can continue to provide vaccines in the future.

The October 4th return to the office date was postponed for those LAWA employees that have been telecommuting and as of now there is no new return-to-office date. It's important to note that two-thirds of LAWA workers are not able to telecommute and have been coming to LAX or VNY to do their jobs throughout the pandemic. LAWA remains very grateful to those employees that have continued to come to work. Ms. Margheritis noted that there is a City of L.A. ordinance that mandates vaccinations or an approved exemption for all City employees. There is an October 19th deadline for all City employees to be fully vaccinated or to apply for a medical or religious exemption.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council on the Labor Day weekend passenger numbers for LAX. She stated that for that weekend LAX saw about 73% of the passenger traffic numbers compared to the same period in 2019. This was very good news for LAWA because in 2020 when compared to Labor Day weekend in 2019, the passenger levels were only at 31%. After the Labor Day holiday weekend, LAX passenger numbers returned to about the same as August, with numbers around 61% compared to 2019. So far, the passenger numbers for September sit at around 64% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

She noted that what will help LAWA and airports across the country is the recent announcement that was made by the White House that they will ease travel restrictions on

all fully vaccinated foreign visitors starting in November, just in time for the Thanksgiving and winter holiday travel season. This news was very much welcomed because LAX international travel numbers continue to be very low.

Ms. Margheritis noted that the reduction in LAX's passenger traffic continues to have an impact on LAWA's bottom line, but LAWA continues to be on stable financial footing. LAWA's financial team has reported that while the LAX operating revenues decreased more than 20% compared to the prior fiscal year, the operating expenses were reduced by more than 16%, which helped LAWA maintain strong financial metrics. This can be seen in credit ratings, which were affirmed last month by the top three credit agencies.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to aircraft operations: For the month of August, VNY conducted 27,468 aircraft operations. This represents a 20.58% increase in operations as compared to August 2020. VNY's YTD 2021 operations totals are currently up by 39.39% as compared to YTD 2020 totals; up by 27% compared to August 2019. Based on the Noise and Operations Monitoring System, in August 2021 there were approximately 6,663 jet operations. These totals are up compared to both August 2020 and August 2019. For comparison, in August 2020 VNY had approximately 4,597 jet operations and in August 2019 there were approximately 4,853 jet operations. When comparing August 2021 to August 2019, this is a 37% increase in jet operations (45% increase when compared to 2020).

**B. Christian Moreno, Chief of Operations**

Mr. Moreno addressed the council as it relates to upcoming projects at VNY. The Runway 16L reconstruction project is set to start in February 2022. Mr. Moreno noted that the FAA From the Flight Deck video project will produce a runway safety video from the pilot's perspective for VNY.

**C. Diana Sanchez, Director of Public and Community Relations**

Ms. Sanchez thanked the council members that attended the parliamentary training that took place on September 28.

Ms. Sanchez addressed the council as it relates to the 2022 Noise Symposium and asked if any council members would like to volunteer to attend.

Ms. Sanchez announced the CAC Virtual Holiday Appreciation event will take place on December 7, 2021.

Ms. Sanchez addressed the council as it relates to the We Fly as One program, a partnership with local chambers surrounding LAX and VNY.

**D. Ryan Page, Airport Superintendent of Operations**

Mr. Page provided the council with a briefing on Noise Comments and the Jet Early Turn and Quiet Jet Departure programs for August 2021. The briefing summarized the information contained in the monthly environmental reports (attached).

Updates and information can also be found on the LAWA website at [www.iFlyVNY.com](http://www.iFlyVNY.com) under the Noise Management Section.

Ms. Pantoja gave a brief update on the IFP Gateway Request. She noted that LAWA will be asking the FAA to move forward with the conceptual designs to revise the VNY RNAV departure procedures.

Ms. Pantoja stated that she will be providing regular updates to the CAC as the process moves forward.

**E. Lt. Dennis Lau, Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police**

In the absence of Lt. Lau, Sgt. Beacom provided an update on safety and security at Van Nuys Airport.

Sgt. Beacom reported that there have been no significant safety or security issues to report since the last CAC meeting on September 7, 2021.

**II. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY**

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, and due to continuing concerns over COVID-19, the BOAC has continued to meet via teleconference. Since the last CAC meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 there was one virtual BOAC meeting.

The Regular Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 16th was cancelled, but in that same week there was a special meeting on Tuesday, September 14th and at that meeting there was one item under the consent calendar related to VNY:

This item was for a resolution for a Lease Termination Agreement with National Helicopter Service and Engineering Company: With a waiver of deferred rent, as consideration for an earlier termination of its lease. The purpose was to provide LAWA the right to terminate the lease with National Helicopter Service and Engineering Company early in support of plans to expedite a competitive solicitation to redevelop the premises.

The next BOAC Meeting will be held via teleconference and is scheduled for Thursday October 7, 2021 at 10 a.m.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The Chair opened the Public Comment Period (item V.)

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Ms. Penny, Resident  
Mr. Barry, Resident  
Mr. Bob Bramen, Resident  
Ms. Robinson, Resident

Several community members submitted written comments (attached).

**IV. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**A. Introduction to Urban Air Mobility – Presentation**

Mr. Clint Harper from Urban Movement Labs conducted a presentation titled “An Introduction to Urban Air Mobility”.

The Chair opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Parker stated that Whiteman Airport would be an ideal location for drone testing and noted the significance of keeping Whiteman Airport open.

Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Reich and Mr. Harper for their presentation.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION**

### **A. Department of City Planning, Community Plan Update/VNY Airport Plan – Discussion/Action**

The Chair opened this item for public comment.

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Mr. Bob Bramen, Resident

Mr. Doug Kreigel, Resident

Several community members submitted written comments (attached).

The Chair opened this item for discussion.

Mr. Williams stated that the communities surrounding VNY are not getting an opportunity to provide input on the Master Plan.

Mr. Rodine addressed the council as it relates to VNY Airport Operations and ANCA.

The Chair stated that LAWA will begin the process of updating the current plan and noted that the council should focus their efforts there.

Mr. Materna noted that if VNY charged landing fees they could use that income to support the surrounding communities.

Ms. Margheritis noted that the plan is a land use plan and asked Ms. Kathline King to provide some clarification.

Ms. Kathline King stated that there are multiple plans that govern VNY including a Community Plan, the Airport Plan and a Zoning Ordinance. She noted that although the Airport Plan was implemented in 1996, the process with the plan began in 1992.

Mr. Cohen asked what are the aircraft capacity limits for VNY.

Ms. Margheritis noted that in terms of ground capacity there are no aircraft capacity limits on leaseholds.

The Chair noted that there are a number of variables that determine the volume of traffic at VNY. He stated that ANCA prohibits VNY from limiting the amount of aircraft coming out of the airport.

Ms. Margheritis stated that there is no more room for physical expansions of existing leaseholds at VNY.

Mr. Parker stated that the business community should be considered when discussing the Master Plan. He noted that VNY is a strong economic asset for the San Fernando Valley.

Mr. Rodine noted that the plan is more than just a land use plan.

Mr. Williams asked if someone from LAWA will attend a future CAC meeting to discuss the 2006 Master Plan discrepancies and updates to the Master Plan going forward.

The Chair noted that the Department of City Planning did attend a meeting where they gave a presentation on the community plan updates.

The Chair stated that in the future, the CAC will be invited to provide input on any plan updates.

Ms. Margheritis noted that LAWA will welcome input from the CAC regarding any update to the current plan.

Ms. King agreed that stakeholder input will be important with the Community Plan update.

Mr. Williams addressed the council as it relates to the phase out of stage-3 jets.

Ms. Margheritis noted that the current plan addresses phase out of Stage-2 aircraft and a cap on based Stage-3 aircraft. She noted that the end goal is to have a plan that works for VNY and the community.

Ms. Margheritis reminded the council and the public that the 2006 plan can be found on the LAWA websites.

**VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

No items were discussed.

**VII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS**

**A. Membership**

No items were discussed

**VIII. EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA**

No items were discussed.

**IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS**

No items were discussed.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

9:29 p.m.