

**VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday February 1, 2022**

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

Absent: Jason Price, Kimberly Chan, Araz Parseghian, Leonel Fuentes and Harold Lee.

The minutes from the January 4, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved with one correction.

**I. STAFF REPORTS:**

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

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on VNY staff, patrons and stakeholders. LAWA has seen an uptick in reported COVID-19 cases. This uptick includes airlines, service providers, federal partners and both LAX and VNY employees. LAWA employees continue to work from home, only coming to the office when it's absolutely necessary. Staff on-site is abiding by the LA County's Department of Public Health new requirements, that all employees who work indoors and in close contact with other workers or the public must wear a well-fitting, medical-grade mask, surgical mask, or N95 masks. This requirement went into effect on January 17th and it means all LAWA employees must wear a surgical or other approved mask while working in the public or indoor areas of any airport facility. LAWA's CEO reported in a recent Board meeting that since the launch of the LAX on-site COVID-19 test lab, LAWA has completed 265,000 tests. A surge in demand during the holidays averaged over 1,000 rapid PCR tests per day; the 1-hour time slots were selling out, so the lab increased capacity to accommodate demand. Notably, LAX had a record day on January 2nd with 1,938 tests conducted. Ms. Margheritis stated that in partnership with the California Department of Public Health, LAWA provided free COVID-19 test kits for returning international travelers, which were distributed in the Tom Bradley International Terminal (TBIT). To date 2,351 take-home tests have been handed out since December 23rd. In December, in partnership with the LA County Department of Public Health, LAWA held two COVID-19 Vaccination & Booster Public Clinics that were held in the TBIT. On these two days, 360 vaccines/boosters were provided. LAWA is working with the County to provide additional opportunities in February.

Last month, LAWA bid farewell to Board of Airport Commissioner Dr. Cynthia Telles, who departed the BOAC to become the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica. At a BOAC meeting held last month, Mayor Eric Garcetti joined the BOAC and LAWA's CEO, Justin Erbacci to recognize and thank Commissioner Telles for her service to LAWA airports since joining the Board in 2013. Ms. Margheritis noted that all at LAWA wish her the best as she moves to a new adventure representing our country abroad.

On January 26th, a press conference was held at VNY and Congressman Tony Cardenas from the 29th District (the district that VNY lies in) presented a check to VNY in the amount of \$763,000. This money will be used to improve facilities, update technology and make flying safer and more efficient. This grant comes as the first installment of the airport infrastructure grants from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that President Biden signed into law in 2021. The act will provide \$294 million to 167 airports across California, including \$79,278,162 for LAX.

Ms. Margheritis announced that patrons of the VNY FlyAway can now pre-book parking spaces at the structure by visiting [parking.FlyLAX.com](http://parking.FlyLAX.com). She noted that booking parking at the VNY parking structure is separate from purchasing tickets for the VNY FlyAway service shuttle, which must be done separately.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the 2022 Super Bowl. The game is set to take place on Sunday, February 13th at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. An increase in aircraft operations is expected at both commercial and general aviation airports throughout the Southern California region, both before and after the event. The increase in operations will not be unique to VNY. Ms. Margheritis stated that at VNY, management is focusing on preserving maximum airport safety and security and will do their best to help minimize noise impacts to surrounding airport neighbors to the greatest extent possible.

Ms. Margheritis noted that Ms. Sanchez will speak more on how the Van Nuys Airport Association (VNAA), whom represents most tenants at the airport, is supporting the campaign against human trafficking. Given that airports play a special role in the prevention of human trafficking by helping identify the warning signs of potential victims and criminal traffickers, the upcoming Super Bowl is an opportunity for VNY to help highlight this terrible crime.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the 2006 Master Plan. In response to a council request to discuss the existing 2006 Master Plan, Ms. Margheritis noted that LAWA planners continue to work closely with the Department of City Planning (DCP) on the City's update to the southwest valley community plans. The DCP presented to the CAC back in August 2021. LAWA is initiating a vision study that will inform the City's Community Plan update, as well as refresh the development standards for VNY in the future. The vision study will engage stakeholders, such as CAC and other adjoining communities/residents, to explore an overlay/planning tool that will be most effective to update the current airport plan with provisions for sustainability and compatibility with the surrounding communities. LAWA intends to kick off the vision study in the near future and VNY will announce dates for engaging the community and stakeholders.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to aircraft operations:

The recovery in passenger numbers at LAX continues. LAX ended the year with just more than 48 million passengers. This is a 67% increase compared to the 28.8 million passengers LAX had in CY 2020. The majority of this passenger traffic was mainly domestic but international travel continues to grow. VNY continues to experience an increase in operations just like most general aviation (GA) airports in the country. In fact, according to AOPA, GA traffic increases of up to 60% over pre-pandemic levels are being experienced in some regions. In December 2021, VNY conducted 21,740 aircraft operations, this represents a 14.23% increase in operations as compared to December 2020. VNY totaled 301,122 operations for calendar year 2021, which is a 31.44% increase as compared to YTD 2020 totals. When looking only at jet operations, based on our Noise and Operations Monitoring System, in December 2021 VNY had approximately 6,594 jet operations. These totals are up compared to December 2020. When comparing the jet operations total to the 2019 baseline year, this represents a 30% increase in jet operations.

Ms. Margheritis noted that according to WingX's Global Market Tracker data which provides a daily-updated dashboard on all business aviation flights operated globally, in the U.S., business jet operations have jumped by 31% compared with January 2020. Flights

are up 45% from last year and 30% from January 2019. January 2, 2022, was a high point with more than 7,000 flights, compared with 4,500 on the same day in 2019. Ms. Margheritis emphasized that the operational increases at VNY are being seen at airports all over the country.

Ms. Margheritis commended two operators for their stewardship at VNY: Helinet Aviation Services was recently recognized for assisting wildfire efforts. Helinet just completed its first full year providing services to assist in fighting wildfires. During 2021, the company's aerial firefighting team responded to 12 fires in seven states and was deployed for 96 continuous days. The firefighting team includes two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters that pilots use to make water drops using a bucket attached to a 150-foot line. The pilots work long hours in remote areas, helping fight these often-stubborn and destructive fires. In addition to the pilots, the team includes a fuel truck, back-up equipment and maintenance technicians. In 2021, their work took them to several locations in California, as well as Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

Clay Lacy Aviation received the first ever 4Air Sustainability 'Facilities Neutral' Certification. Last month, Clay Lacy Aviation became the first company to have its aviation facilities certified as "Facilities Neutral," by 4AIR, an organization that rates sustainability initiatives in private aviation. This certification, which includes VNY's facilities, was based on comprehensive and independent audits of the facilities that account for direct and indirect carbon emissions. 4AIR noted the VNY facility's use of more than 30,000 square feet of solar panels, as well as incorporating electric vehicle charging stations and using energy-efficient LED lighting. The certification complements LAWA's Boldly Moving to Zero sustainability action plan, which sets forth bold goals for LAX and VNY to achieve zero carbon emissions, zero use of potable water for non-potable purposes, and zero use of non-renewable energy by 2045. Congratulations to both Helinet and Clay Lacy Aviation.

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

Mr. Moreno addressed the council as it relates to the Runway 16L capital improvement project. Construction began on January 24th on work area 1 which will be completed on February 7th. The closure of Runway 16L/34R will begin on February 22nd. The closure of Runway 16L will continue for 175 days and is expected to reopen on July 24, 2022. Mr. Moreno noted that construction will cause minimal operational impacts to the airfield.

Mr. Moreno noted that construction updates can be found online at [iflyvny.com](http://iflyvny.com).

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

Ms. Sanchez addressed the council as it relates to the toy drive and the canned food drive. Ms. Sanchez commended VNY tenants; Aerolease/Aeroplex, Castle & Cooke Aviation, Signature Flight Support, Western Jet Aviation and Helinet Aviation for their donations and efforts. VNY was able to donate six bins of food to the canned food drive in November to support the Mid-Valley YMCA and MEND. In December, five bins of toys were collected for the toy drive to support the Mid-Valley YMCA, the North East Valley Health Corporation and the Salvation Army.

In December, VNY held its annual Holiday Adopt-a-School Celebration at Stagg Elementary School.

Ms. Sanchez noted that VNY is participating in the toiletry drive for human trafficking victims. Ms. Sanchez encouraged the council to bring donations to the participating VNY locations.

Ms. Sanchez addressed the council as it relates to a newly installed billboard at the intersection of Saticoy and Woodley Avenue. This billboard was installed in collaboration with Western Jet Aviation and the Van Nuys Airport Association and highlights the following:

- Van Nuys Airport, a leader in aviation, a partner in the community since 1928.
- Contributes over \$2 billion annually to our local economy.
- Generates over 4 million KWH per year in solar electricity.
- Supports over 10,500 jobs.

Ms. Sanchez announced that VNY coordinated a donation of \$14 thousand dollars from the Van Nuys Airport Association to help support the following organizations: The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Saving Innocence and Journey Out.

#### **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 December 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.

#### **E. Lt. Anthony Boisselle, Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police**

Ms. Margheritis announced the departure of Lt. Lau, who will finish the remainder of his LAWA service at LAX, and introduced the newly appointed Lieutenant for VNY, Lt. Anthony Boisselle.

Lt. Boisselle introduced himself to the council and noted that he has been with LAWA for 23 years and is happy to be at VNY.

Lt. Boisselle reported that there have been no significant safety or security issues to report and noted that Airport Police will be enhancing their presence in the coming days in preparation for Super Bowl.

## **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, January 4, 2022, there was one virtual BOAC meeting and at that meeting there was one item under regular items for Board Action related to VNY: It was for a resolution for an award of a 3-year contract to Global Access Supply, Inc., to cover supply and delivery of airfield lighting and replacement parts for LAX and VNY.

The Regular BOAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 20th was cancelled.

The next BOAC Meeting will be held via teleconference and is scheduled for Thursday February 3rd at 10 a.m.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The Chair opened the Public Comment Period (Item III.)

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Ms. Penny, Resident

Mr. David Rankell, Resident

Several community members submitted written comments (attached).

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

#### **A. Landside Access Modernization Program – Presentation by Stephanie Sampson**

The Chair opened the Public Comment Period (Item IV.)

Ms. Sanchez introduced Ms. Stephanie Sampson, Director of Communications of LAX Development Projects.

Ms. Stephanie Sampson conducted a presentation titled “Landside Access Modernization Program”.

The Chair thanked Ms. Sampson for her presentation and asked when the project would be completed.

Ms. Sampson stated that the car rental facilities and the People Mover System will be open in 2023.

Ms. Sanchez noted the system would be ready in time for the 2028 Olympics which will be held in Los Angeles

Mr. Rodine commended Ms. Sampson on her detailed presentation.

#### **B. Determination to Continue Holding CAC Meetings via Teleconference and/or Videoconference: Under Assembly Bill 361 Section 3(e)(3). Discussion/Action**

The Chair opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Rodine presented a motion “Pursuant to AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council finds that holding Council meetings in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of the members. Pursuant to AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), the Council finds that the COVID-19 State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of Council and Council members to meet safely in person. As such, the Board should continue holding Council meetings via teleconference and/or videoconference.”

Ms. Harris seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a rollcall vote of eleven "affirmative" votes (W. Saunders, R. Rodine, L. Petrus, K. Delle Donne M. Harris, T. Materna, E. Robinson, J. Parker, R. Sanders, H. Molina, W. Williams); one “no” vote (E. Cohen).

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

The Chair addressed the council as it relates to having discussions for action on the agenda for the following meeting.

Ms. Margheritis noted that she is currently working on bringing someone in to present to the council on the industry’s transition to a non-leaded fuel environment.

**VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair noted that he looks forward to adding more items to the agenda regarding the community concerns with jet fuel fumes.

**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**

Ms. Saunders wished everyone a happy new year.

Mr. Rodine commended Ms. Sampson on her presentation and thanked Mr. Williams on a successful meeting.

Ms. Harris addressed the council as it relates to forming a working group for the Master Plan. Ms. Harris asked if there are any on-going air quality studies at the moment. Ms. Harris commended Ms. Sanchez on working with MEND.

Mr. Materna thanked Ms. Sampson on her presentation. Mr. Materna agreed with the working group recommendation presented by Ms. Harris.

Mr. Robinson agreed with Ms. Harris in regards to the Master Plan working group.

Mr. Cohen noted that a working group for the Master Plan is a good idea. Mr. Cohen addressed the council as it relates to fuel at VNY.

Mr. Cohen stated that VNY is a subtraction to the quality of life to the average home owner.

Mr. Sanders looks forward to the discussions on leaded fuel since it is a hot topic and he will share as much information as he can.

Ms. Molina noted that as a civil engineer, she enjoyed Ms. Sampson’s presentation and commended her work.

The Chair thanked the council and the community for their continued involvement.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

8:15 p.m.