

## **VAN NUYS AIRPORT (VNY) CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)**

**Meeting Minutes -- Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

Van Nuys City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys, CA 91401

Minutes "Approved: May 06, 2025"

### **CALL TO ORDER** – CHAIRMAN JASON PRICE

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Williams.

### **I. ROLL CALL**

Twelve of the 20 Council Members were present: Alicia Avery, Stephen Brackett, Rolando Chavez, Roslyn Dahl, Tom Materna, Kanchan Mattoo, Naila Mendes, Heren Molina, Araz Parseghian, Robert Rodine (Parliamentarian), Wayne Williams (Vice-Chair) and Phyllis Winger. Eliot Cohen (7:45) and MaryKate Harris (7:15) arrived later. Six Council Members were absent: Kathy Delle Donne, Leonel Fuentes, John Parker, Lisa Petrus, Jason Price (Chair) and Eric Robinson. Per the VNY CAC Bylaws [see <https://www.iflyvny.com/-/media/iflyvny/community-information/files/citizen-advisory-council/cacbylaws.ashx?20200724>], "ARTICLE V – MEETINGS, Section 3. Quorum: b. A quorum of a regular or special meeting shall be a majority of the appointed members"; a quorum of at least 11 of the 20 filled Council Seats was present. All twenty of the 20 Council Seats were filled. No Council Seat was vacant. Approximately 17 stakeholders and guests attended.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/DISCUSSION NOTES**

- a. Approval of September 3, 2024, Minutes.
- b. Approval of October 1, 2024, Minutes.
- c. Approval of November 6, 2024, Minutes.

No corrections or amendments were made.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Parseghian): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council approves September 3, 2024; October 1, 2024; and November 6, 2024, Minutes.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Avery, Brackett, Chavez, Cohen, Dahl, Harris, Materna, Mattoo, Mendes, Molina, Parseghian, Rodine, Williams and Winger); zero opposed; zero abstained.

*Council Member MaryKate Harris arrived at this time (7:15), making 13 Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum was 11).*

### **III. STAFF REPORTS**

- a. VNY Airport Manager.  
Jacob Haik reported that the Sherman Way tunnel was "just cleaned" but "didn't touch any of the graffiti outside the tunnel." All touch-and-go operations are being tracked. He encouraged contacting him regarding Airport complaints.

b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations.

Christian Moreno reported that construction started February 10th; they're working with the Runway Safety Action Team.

c. VNY Airport Affairs Group.

Jessica Barker, VNY External Affairs Director, reported for Nicole Carcel, Director of Community Relations, that she (Ms. Barker) got CAC Agendas onto the Council File Management System, where Agendas will be posted in "Boards and Commissions." She encouraged Council Members to provide her with their contact information, which won't be made public, and current biographies of 200 words or less. She described recent outreach events "supporting local businesses." BOAC will meet April 17<sup>th</sup> at the North Valley Occupational Center.

d. VNY Environmental Programs Group.

Ryan Page, VNY Noise Officer, reported as follows:

Ryan Page, VNY Noise Officer, reported regarding the Early Turn Program [<https://www.iflyvny.com/no-early-turn>] that, in January, there were two Jet Early Turns that were directed by ATC to turn for a variety of reasons, wind drift and other pilot safety concerns. There were three Early Turns that deviated from the No Early Turn Policy.

Regarding VNY Noise Comments [<https://www.lawa.org/en/lawa-environment/noise-management/van-nuys/vny-noise-comments>], in January, there were 105 individuals who submitted 3,410 comments. Compared to January 2024, these numbers represent a 39% decrease in the number of individuals submitting comments and a 71% decrease in the number of comments received. For February 2025, preliminary numbers show that 112 individuals submitted 5,925 comments.

Regarding the Quiet Departure/Fly Friendly Program [<https://www.iflyvny.com/vnyquieternights>; also see <https://www.iflyvny.com/pilot-information/noise-restrictions>], in 2025, 5% of jets exceeded their specific Target noise levels of 85 db or 90 db on jet departures to the south from runway 16R. This represents a 99% compliance rate with VNY's Fly Friendly program.

Mr. Page noted that new procedures have increased the climbing rate to 3,000 feet and 600 feet per nautical mile, so aircraft are climbing faster.

*Council Member Eliot Cohen arrived at this time (7:45), making 14 Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum was 11).*

- e. VNY Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police.  
Lt. Darren Gilbert reported that there were “a couple of trespassing” events, and the Police are “doing extra patrols” of the Sherman Way tunnel.

#### **IV. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY**

Mr. Haik’s said that this was covered at the last meeting and there was nothing new.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mr. Williams officially requested that staff inform the appointing authority (the Mayor’s office) of Jason’s four to five absences per the VNY CAC bylaws. Resident Fran Potaski said one aircraft that flew over her home emitted an 89 db sound level. Resident Sue Steinberg encouraged the Airport to have 24-hour-a-day, seven days a week air traffic controllers and said, “the fumes have been really bad this week.” Resident Kern Konwiser wanted “to participate” in the CAC’s Early Turns Committee. Resident Steve Leffert said that there should be at least one printed copy of the Meeting Minutes available to the public at this meeting.

#### **VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Mr. Williams indicated that he had no report.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VII. b.*

#### **VII. OLD BUSINESS** – Discussion/Action

- a. Sherman Way Tunnel (Discussion/Action)
  - i. Request for administrative report on funding sources, past, present, and future for Sherman Way Tunnel.
  - ii. LAWA to discuss possibilities of tenant support, funding a mural as a preventative measure to keep graffiti off tunnels.
  - iii. Date of implementation of camera system.

Mr. Haik indicated that he’s working on the above. He described camera coverage. Ms. Avery said she has collected 10 years of information. No Motion was made or voted on Item #VII. a.

- b. LAWA invite eVTOL manufactures (Discussion/Action).
  - i. Request fly in and fly out presentation of their aircraft for CAC and the public.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Rodine): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council requests that Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) set up a fly-in, walk-through, and fly out demonstration event prior to and concurrent with an upcoming VNY CAC meeting in the next month or two at VNY.

**DISCUSSION:** There was discussion regarding eVTOL operations and possible impacts on VNY and its neighbors, especially regarding noise and

fumes. Mr. Rodine believed that opposition to eVTOL could be contrary to the operational guidelines for the Airport. Mr. Cohen said that the Airport “already is in violation” of operational guidelines. Mr. Haik stated that the community needs to be prepared before VNY introduces eVTOLs; anyway, he didn’t “plan to have any eVTOLs at the Airport any time soon . . . “I don’t think the community is ready yet.”

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Mr. Materna, seconded by Mr. Cohen): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) requests that the City of LA Urban Air Mobility program update the CAC on rules and regulations with timeline prior to requesting Fly-in Introduction.

Mr. Leffert and Ms. Steinberg believed that eVTOLs are for rich people and shouldn’t be at VNY, and that neighbors are paying the price.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with eight in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Avery, Chavez, Dahl, Harris, Materna, Mattoo, Rodine and Williams); zero opposed; six abstained (VNY CAC abstentions are counted as “yes” votes) (Brackett, Cohen, Mendes, Molina, Parseghian and Winger).

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Avery, Chavez, Dahl, Harris, Materna, Parseghian, Rodine, Williams and Winger); five opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Brackett, Cohen, Mattoo, Mendes and Molina); zero abstained.

*The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VII. a.*

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. GSE Zero Emission Policy.**

Mr. Haik reported that “all Ground Service Equipment [GSE] will be zero-emission by 2030. . . This really sets the bar for General Aviation Airports.” He noted Airport tenants’ cooperation toward that goal; that LADWP is providing additional power; and that “most equipment available now is electric.” He encouraged attending and supporting this at the April 17<sup>th</sup> BOAC meeting in Van Nuys. He said there are approximately 250 pieces of GSE at VNY and “we have some tenants with power already in place.”

### **b. GSE ZE Incentive Program.**

See above Item #VIII. a.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Materna, seconded by Ms. Avery): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council supports the GSE ZE Incentive Program.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) Avery, Brackett, Chavez, Dahl, Harris, Materna, Mattoo,

Mendes, Molina, Parseghian, Rodine, Williams and Winger); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Cohen); zero abstained.

c. VNY CAC Code of Conduct.

Mr. Williams reported that he had an informal Code of Conduct discussion with Mr. Haik; they’ve looked at other commissions and committees in the city, including the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and councils in particular who have very effectively implemented Codes of Conduct. Ms. Barker advised that they’re working on the Code of Conduct, have gotten an indication from BOAC staff that they think that this is a good idea, and that the Council can independently work on it. She thought everyone would love to see that presentation and at that time a discussion and action can be held on it.

**IX. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS**

a. Pistons Early Turns Ad Hoc Committee – Jason Price.

Mr. Price was absent; there was no report.

**X. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS**

Mr. Cohen believed that “this Airport . . . needs to be closed down.” Ms. Mendes said that the CAC should heed Mr. Haik’s guidance. Mr. Rodine said, “the curfew does not prohibit operations at night.” Mr. Brackett requested that two Motions be Agendized.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Brackett, seconded by Mr. Rodine): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council requests the total number of propeller, jet and helicopter aircraft based at VNY to include lease/aviation companies, and the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisor Council requests that it appoint a CAC Bylaws Review Committee.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously with all 14 eligible voters present in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Ms. Dahl, seconded by Mr. Williams. The Motion was unanimously approved; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting **adjourned** at 9:19.

*The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the agenda. Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by VNY CAC. The VNY CAC Minutes page is <https://www.iflyvny.com/en/community-information/citizens-advisory-council>.*