

HCCA TESTIMONY ON CB8-2017

BWI AIRPLANE NOISE FROM THE NEXT GENERATION AIR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (NEXT GEN)

PAUL VERCHINSKI, TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (HCCA). WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION.

HCCA HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HOWARD COUNTY. NOISE POLLUTION IS A MAJOR QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUE AS BOTH COUNCILMEN BALL AND WEINSTEIN HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED. WE WOULD LIKE FOR THE COUNCIL TO FOCUS NOT ONLY ON NEXTGEN, BUT YOUR CONSTITUENTS COMPLAINTS FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS REGARDING EXCESSIVE SOUND EMITTING FROM MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION (MPP).

THIS NOISE POLLUTION FROM AIRPLANES IS 24/7 AND 365 DAYS OF THE YEAR. I PERSONALLY GOT INVOLVED WITH THIS NOISE POLLUTION ISSUE LAST YEAR WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT DEPARTURE PATHS FROM BWI HAD SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED AND NOW COME OVER MY HOUSE.

I'VE LIVED IN OAKLAND MILLS SINCE 1973 AND THERE HAS NEVER BEEN AN AIRPLANE NOISE ISSUE UNTIL LAST YEAR. I REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM THE MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AN AIRPLANE NOISE MONITOR LOCATED AT MY RESIDENCE DURING JUNE, 2016. THE RESULTS SHOWED THAT THE NEXT GEN SYSTEM, RECENTLY PUT IN PLACE, HAS NOW CONCENTRATED AIRPLANE DEPARTURES FROM RUNWAY 28 (FIGURE 3 AND 4) IN ROUGHLY A 2 MILE WIDE AIR CORRIDOR. (SUPPOSEDLY, MAJOR FUEL SAVINGS OF UP TO \$180 BILLION WILL BE REALIZED BY THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY THROUGH NEXT GEN.) SO WHAT DID THEY FIND AT MY LOCATION? THE AVERAGE DAY NIGHT SOUND LEVEL WAS 54 DECIBLES. "FOR NOISE LEVELS BETWEEN 65 DECIBLES AND 75 DECIBLES, RESIDENTIAL LAND USE IS CONSIDERED INCOMPATIBLE" PER THE FAA. SO HOW HAS THAT AFFECTED ME? MY HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1970 AND INSULATION IN THE WALLS IS 2.5 INCHES. (TODAYS HOMES ARE BUILT WITH 5.5 INCHES OR MORE OF INSULATION IN THE WALLS.) I BOUGHT ONE INCH RIGID INSULATION WHICH I PLACED IN MY WINDOWS EVERY NIGHT TO HELP DAMPEN THE NOISE. THE NOISE WAS NOT RESOLVED AND CONSTANTLY WAKES ME UP AND WAKES ME UP AS EARLY AS 5 AM. I CAN NO LONGER OPEN MY WINDOWS AT NIGHT DURING THE SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL. I HAVE REPEATEDLY PUT IN NOISE COMPLAINTS TO THE MAA. (SEE FIGURE 1, COMPLAINTS BY ZIP CODE FOR A 10 MONTH PERIOD) AN ARTICLE IN THE COLUMBIA FLIER ON OCTOBER

20, 2016 NOTED THAT THE MAA HAD FAILED TO USE \$12.4 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS SINCE 2008 TO PAY FOR SOUND INSULATION PROGRAMS.

IN OCTOBER 2016, I WAS INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE BY THE MAA AND FAA TO DISCUSS NEXT GEN AND ITS IMPACTS ON SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. THE OPEN HOUSE DID NOT ADDRESS MY CONCERNS NOR DID IT COME UP WITH ANY SOLUTIONS OTHER THAN TO MEET AGAIN AT SOME FUTURE DATE (STILL HAS NOT OCCURRED). I SPOKE WITH AN FAA REPRESENTATIVE AND ASKED WHEN NOISE PARAMETERS WERE LAST UPDATED BY THE FAA. I WAS TOLD - 30 YEARS AGO. THERE IS NOW A VAST DIFFERENCE IN HOW AIRLINES USE AIRPORTS. 30 YEARS AGO, THERE WAS NO EXTENSIVE HUB AND SPOKE SYSTEM WHERE AIPLANES ARRIVED AND DEPARTED IN NARROW TIME WINDOWS AND AFTER DEREGULATION IN THE 1980S, THE INCREASE IN AIRPLANE USEAGE. (BWI LAST YEAR HAD 23 MILLION PASSENGERS USE THE AIRPORT). BY AVERAGING NOISE LEVELS OVER A 24 HOUR PERIOD, THE FAA AND MAA ARE INGNORING THE CONCENTRATION OF AIPLANE NOISE CLUSTERED BETWEEN 5 AND 8 AM, 11 TO 1 PM, 5 TO 7 PM AND 10 TO MIDNIGHT. IF AIPLANE NOISE WAS AVERAGED FOR EACH OF THOSE CLUSTERED TIMES, THE DECIBLE LEVELS WOULD BE SHOWN AS UNACCEPTABLE. THE 24 HOUR AVERAGING REFLECTS A DIFFERENT ERA WITH FEW AIRPLANE LANDING AND DEPARTURES.

SO, YES WE SHOULD JOIN WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES IN PRESSING LITIGATION. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER OTHER REMEDIES. BWI IS A STATE OWNED AIRPORT. SOME AIRPORTS RESTRICT TIMES FOR AIRPLANE LANDING AND DEPARTURES LIKE REAGAN AIRPORT. OUR SUGGESTION TO YOU IS TO PRESS OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTRICT BWI'S HOURS OF OPERATION TO 6 AM TO 10 PM. STUDIES HAVE DOCUMENTED THAT WE NEED 8 HOURS OF UNITERRUPTED SLEEP TO FUNCTION WELL. A NOVEL APPROACH TO ALSO CONSIDER IS TO RESTRICT AIRPLANES USING HOWARD COUNTY AIRSPACE BELOW 8,000 FEET DURING 10 PM AND 6 AM. AIRSPACE IS NOT OWNED BY ANYONE BUT, WE BELIEVE, YOU MAY HAVE THE AUTHORITY - SINCE THIS IS PUBLIC SPACE - TO REGULATE ITS USEAGE.

HCCA APPRECIATES THE COUNCIL BEING PROACTIVE IN THIS AND ASK THAT YOU ALSO STEP UP TO THE PLATE REGARDING OTHER NOISE POLLUTION ISSUES INCLUDING MPP FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS.