

**VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, September 15, 2020**

A virtual meeting of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Jason Price. Members present: Wayne Williams, Mel Roberts, Robert Rodine, John Parker, Marykate Harris, Thomas Materna, Lisa Petrus, Wendy Saunders, Roger Oeland, Cindy Goodfellow, Araz Parseghian, Eric Robinson, Laurence Rabe, Kathy Delle Donne and Eliot Cohen.

Absent: Harold Lee and Leonel Fuentes.

The minutes from the August 4, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

**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 is still in the midst of the pandemic and no one is sure how long it will continue to last. The full extent of the pandemic's impact to the aviation industry is still unknown. Ms. Margheritis stated that the passenger recovery at LAX is slow, similar to the other commercial airports throughout the country; but in a recent message sent by LAWA's CEO, Justin Erbacci, he stated that the Labor Day holiday weekend marked a new high for passengers at LAX since April. The number of passengers that TSA screened on that Labor Day Friday reflected a decrease of only 64.7% versus the same day last year, and on Labor Day the passenger number had climbed to 66.9% compared to 2019. The passenger numbers continue to slowly trend up, which brings some optimism. Ms. Margheritis noted that LAWA continues to do everything possible to ensure a safe travel experience and is certain that this will help bring passengers back. She stated that in terms of aircraft operations, Van Nuys Airport is recovering at a better pace, like the other general aviation airports across the country. LAWA remains positive that they will get through this crisis. Ms. Margheritis emphasized that both LAX and VNY are strong economic engines in this region which has been the case historically in the aviation industry. She stated that LAWA will rebound and both LAX and VNY continue to prepare for this.

Ms. Margheritis commended VNY staff and tenants for their continued support and efforts to ensure a safe work environment. Interaction with airport tenants continues primarily with video conferencing through WebEx and Zoom meetings and staff has kept in-person meetings to a minimum, following all safety guidelines. At VNY, staff continues to social distance, disinfect, sanitize, wear masks and follow all safety related protocols.

Ms. Margheritis announced that several LAWA employees have decided to retire as part of LAWA's Separation Incentive Program (SIP). These employees have given many years of service to LAWA and the City of Los Angeles. She noted that VNY is sorry to lose them but wishes them the best during their retirement years.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to aircraft operations. Despite all the pandemic related challenges, VNY is maintaining its eye on the future. Ms. Margheritis stated that although VNY is still not at the traffic levels that it was during this time last year, the air traffic trend continues upward. On Sunday, the VNY Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) increased its hours of operation to 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Prior to COVID the hours were 7 a.m. to 10:45 p.m., so VNY gained an hour of ATC presence at VNY, from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. The latest operational statistics show that for the month of July 2020, VNY

conducted 22,434 aircraft operations. This represents a 15.06% increase in operations when compared to July 2019. These numbers are for all types of aircraft: jets, helicopters and smaller propeller planes. Ms. Margheritis noted that there was a big spike in the category of local civil operations. She stated that these operations alone almost doubled from 5,355 operations to 9,018. These Local Civil aircraft operations are defined as operations performed by aircraft that remain in the local traffic pattern conducting touch & goes or the operations that go to a designated practice area, which is typically located within a 20-mile radius of the VNY ATCT whereby these aircraft do not land at another airport. Ms. Margheritis explained that VNY's YTD 2020 operations totals are still down but only to the tune of 0.56% when compared to YTD 2019 totals. Ms. Margheritis noted that the averages tell a better story, when comparing July 2020 to July of 2019. In the category of all aircraft operations VNY is down 9.1%; for jets alone VNY is down 10.4% and in the category of nighttime jet operations, which is now defined as jet operations that take place between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. (the Quieter Nights Program hours), are down 40.6%. Ms. Margheritis stated that around September 23, 2020, LAWA will receive the FAA data for the month of August and she will report those figures at the October CAC meeting.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to VNY's environmental stewardship. There are currently several rooftop solar projects going on at the VNY Airport. One tenant, Western Jet Aviation (WJA) is nearing completion. This project involved not only rooftop installation of solar panels on the WJA hangar located on the east-side of the airport but the tenant also constructed carports with rooftop solar panels. Another tenant, Castle & Cooke, an FBO, is also nearing completion of their rooftop solar project and Clay Lacy Aviation is halfway done with their project. Ms. Margheritis stated that going solar is a commitment being made by many master tenants of the airport, demonstrating their pledge towards environmental stewardship. Additionally, the Airport's Council International (ACI) Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Program, which recognizes airports worldwide that have committed to managing their carbon footprint through measurement and reduction with the ultimate goal of carbon neutrality, has once again awarded VNY its Level 3 certification for the second time in a row. Level 3 is all about third party engagement. What this means is that VNY is engaging tenants on the subject of carbon footprint reduction. Not only is LAWA trying to manage its own carbon footprint, but they are also actively engaging all those who operate at Van Nuys to incorporate more sustainable practices. VNY will continue to map its carbon footprint by quantifying greenhouse gas emissions and implementing programs to manage and reduce their carbon footprint. Ms. Margheritis stated that the ultimate goal would be total neutrality or carbon neutrality for direct emissions by engaging in practices to offset emissions. She noted, there are four levels of accreditation and Level 4 is the ultimate goal for VNY.

Ms. Margheritis gave an update on the Metroplex/SFV Task Force: After the August CAC meeting, the SFV Noise Task Force (TF) received the formal response from Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris. Their response thanked the TF for their efforts in addressing aviation noise and they attached a letter addressed to the FAA Administrator, Stephen Dickson, expressing their support for the 16 approved TF recommendations, which encouraged the Administrator to consider the recommendations. Ms. Margheritis noted that they do acknowledge that some of the recommendations may require federal legislation and that they look forward to working with Administrator Dickson and others in the House of Representatives. Ms. Margheritis noted that the letter and Burbank Airport's (BUR) response can be found on the BUR and VNY webpages. BUR formally responded to the TF on August 17, 2020 on the 5 recommendations they were

responsible for addressing. Ms. Margheritis stated that the FAA submitted their response to the TF earlier this month. In a letter dated September 1, 2020, the FAA states that they have completed a feasibility analysis for the 16 TF approved recommendations, including other associated recommendations. The FAA addressed all 16 recommendations, and made comments to those recommendations where they were not the responsible entity for responding, but they offered background information for context. Recommendation 2, which addresses the PPRRY Waypoint, includes an FAA evaluation, their feasibility assessment, feasibility justification, and next steps. Ms. Margheritis urged the council to read the response and stay informed.

Ms. Margheritis gave an update on the VNY Quieter Nights Program:

LAWA continues outreach efforts on the Quieter Nights Program (QNP) by pushing the message to jet operators to avoid flying between the hours of 11pm and 7am. Earlier this month, staff posted the program in the air charter guide which is accessible not just to pilots but to clients who charter jet aircraft. Ms. Margheritis stated that this is the best way to reach the client and to remind jet operators, not just those based at VNY, that the program is in effect. She noted that aircharter.com attracts about 245,000 visitors to their website per month, so this is a great site to promote the QNP. Ms. Margheritis stated that on September 3, 2020, the National Business Aviation Association published an article on the QNP for their worldwide membership. The article highlighted the program hours and VNY's efforts encouraging operators to comply. Ms. Margheritis stated that a more detailed report on all outreach efforts will be presented once Public and Community Affairs Director, Diana Sanchez, returns to the office.

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

Mr. Moreno updated the council on the Taxiway Alpha Rehabilitation Project. The project continues work on area 7, which should be completed by late October 2020. Mr. Moreno noted that they are working with the Airport Pavement Management System team along with the LAX crew to continue asphalt repairs throughout the airfield. All construction updates and pictures can be found on the VNY webpage.

Mr. Moreno addressed the council as it relates to LA County Fire operations at VNY. He noted that there may be an increase in aircraft operations for September 2020, as a result of increased fire-fighting flight activities.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to an airfield tour. She noted that once construction is complete on Taxiway Bravo, and pending COVID restrictions she would like to invite CAC members to tour the VNY airfield and all of its infrastructure improvements.

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

In the absence of Diana Sanchez, Ms. Margheritis provided an update on Public and Community Relations. Ms. Margheritis stated that staff has been working on creating a virtual tour of the Van Nuys Airport. Staff is also working on the Fly Friendly Awards Program to recognize the 2019 winners. Ms. Margheritis commended VNY staff for their continued hard work and dedication. She noted that LAWLA will host an Employee Appreciation Day luncheon on September 16, 2020 for VNY staff.

#### **D. Len Krugler, Environmental Specialist**

Mr. Krugler provided the council with a briefing on the Jet Early Turn and Quiet Departure programs for August 2020. The briefing summarized the information contained in the monthly environmental handouts (noise reports attached).

Mr. Krugler stated that this information can also be found on the LAWA website at [www.iFlyVNY.com](http://www.iFlyVNY.com) under the Noise Management Section.

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

Lt. Lau informed the council that the assistant officer in charge, Sgt. Clint Beacom, will be giving reports on his behalf for the remaining meetings of 2020.

Sgt. Beacom stated that he is proud to serve VNY Airport and the surrounding communities.

Ms. Kathryn Pantoja announced the retirement of VNY Noise Officer, Len Krugler. Ms. Pantoja thanked Mr. Krugler for his time and dedication at LAWA.

Mr. Krugler thanked LAWA staff and CAC members for his time at VNY.

Ms. Margheritis commended Mr. Krugler on his achievements and dedication to Van Nuys Airport and wished him well.

**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, August 4, 2020, there was a virtual BOAC meeting on Thursday August 20th, where there was one regular item for board action for VNY for a resolution for a first amendment contract with HNTB Corporation: To extend the term by 1 year and include the scope of work for design and construction support services for the VNY Runway 16L-34R Pavement Reconstruction Project and the Runway 16R-34L Slurry Seal and Striping Project. This will be for 2 new capital projects at VNY to meet the FAA grant-funding schedule for the next federal fiscal year and to maximize LAWAs grant reimbursement.

The Special BOAC meeting on September 3, 2020 had one consent item for board action that mentioned the VNY FlyAway for a resolution for a second amendment to a concession agreement with Bottling Group, LLC: To extend the contract term through September 30, 2021, to cover vending machine concessions at LAX and the Van Nuys Airport FlyAway building

The next BOAC Meeting, is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. and is also designated as a "Special" meeting.

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

**A. Prop Park Update – Presentation**

The Chair opened the item for public comment.

There were no public comments submitted for this item.

Mr. Eric Steinhauer conducted a presentation titled "Prop Park Update" (attached).

The Chair thanked Mr. Steinhauer for his presentation.

**B. Election of Officer – Discussion/Action**

The Chair opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Williams nominated Mr. Price for Chair.  
Ms. Delle Donne seconded Mr. Price’s nomination.

Mr. Price accepted the nomination.

Mr. Price was reelected as Chair by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Materna nominated Mr. Williams as Vice Chair.  
Ms. Harris seconded Mr. Williams nomination.

Mr. Williams accepted the nomination.

Mr. Rodine nominated Mr. Parker as Vice Chair.  
Mr. Parker declined the nomination.

Ms. Goodfellow nominated Mr. Parseghian as Vice Chair.  
Mr. Rodine seconded Mr. Parseghian’s nomination.

Mr. Parseghian accepted the nomination.

Mr. Williams was reelected as Vice Chair with the following votes:  
Mr. Oeland, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Rabe, Mr. Williams, Ms. Delle Donne,  
Ms. Saunders, Ms. Harris, Mr. Materna, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Cohen.

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

No items were discussed.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

- Mr. Ed Burnham, Resident
- Ms. Elaine, Resident
- Ms. Gina, Resident
- Ms. Susan Ashley, Resident
- Ms. Lisen Franks, Resident
- Mr. David Rankel, Resident

Several community members submitted written comments (attached).

**VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair thanked the council for their vote of confidence and congratulated Mr. Krugler on his retirement.

**VII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS**

**A. Membership – Cindy Goodfellow, Chairperson**

Ms. Goodfellow stated that she has been in contact with Jonah Glickman from the office of Councilmember Martinez and Paola from the office of Councilmember Rodriguez. Ms. Goodfellow noted that they are closer to getting the vacant seats filled.

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

No items were discussed.

**IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Steinhauer for his presentation.

Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Price and Mr. Williams for another year of service.

Ms. Harris congratulated Mr. Price and Mr. Williams on their reelection.

Ms. Harris thanked Mr. Steinhauer on his presentation and congratulated Mr. Krugler on his retirement. Ms. Harris thanked the public for their comments. Ms. Harris addressed Ms. Margheritis asking if any VNY staff had tested positive for COVID.

Ms. Margheritis noted that two employees had tested positive but were now doing well and back at work.

Ms. Delle Donne congratulated Mr. Price and Mr. Williams on their reelection, and wished Mr. Krugler a happy retirement.

Mr. Williams thanked the council for their continued support.

Mr. Williams noted that the FAA did send their response letter to the Task Force.

Mr. Williams encouraged LAWA, the BOAC, and other city and state representatives to push back on the FAA for action.

Mr. Cohen stated he is looking forward to working with the Chair and Vice Chair and thanked Mr. Steinhauer for his presentation.

Mr. Cohen noted his concern over growth at VNY and aircraft noise.

Mr. Cohen addressed the council as it relates to a new CAC outreach committee.

Mr. Cohen addressed the council as it relates to landing fees at VNY and requested adding it as an agenda item at the next CAC meeting.

Mr. Materna congratulated Mr. Krugler on his retirement and thanked Mr. Steinhauer for his presentation. Mr. Materna addressed Ms. Margheritis as it relates to VNY aircraft operations.

Ms. Margheritis noted that her reports are based on figures sent by the FAA and encouraged Mr. Materna to email her the reports for a one-on-one discussion.

Mr. Materna addressed the council as it relates to the FAA recommendations.

Ms. Petrus congratulated Mr. Price and Mr. Williams for their appointments.

Ms. Saunders congratulated Mr. Price and Mr. Williams for their continued leadership.

Ms. Saunders thanked Mr. Steinhauer on his presentation and congratulated Mr. Krugler.

Ms. Saunders noted an improvement in the meeting minutes and ensured the public that the council receives written comments prior to each meeting.

Mr. Rodine thanked the Chair and Vice Chair on their continued leadership.  
Mr. Rodine thanked Mr. Krugler for his hard work and dedication.  
Mr. Rodine commended LAWA for their outreach efforts on the Quieter Nights Program.

Ms. Goodfellow congratulated the Chair and Vice Chair on their appointments.  
Ms. Goodfellow congratulated Mr. Krugler and thanked staff for their efforts.  
Ms. Goodfellow commended the Quieter Nights Program work on the VNY Blast Fence.

Mr. Parker thanked Mr. Price and Mr. Williams for their continued support.

Mr. Oeland thanked everyone for a good meeting.

Ms. Rabe thanked Mr. Krugler for his service. Ms. Rabe thanked Mr. Price and Williams for their continued leadership.

Mr. Roberts wished Mr. Krugler a happy retirement.  
Mr. Roberts thanked Mr. Price and Mr. Williams for their hard work and continued support.  
Mr. Roberts addressed the council as it relates to aircraft noise.

The Chair addressed the council as it relates to the annual CAC holiday dinner.  
The Chair encouraged the council to forward any CAC agenda requests to him via the CAC email address.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

9:09 p.m.