

John Long

From: Angelika Fretzen <angfretzen@posteo.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:15 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Airplane noise in Somerville

City of Somerville,

I am a resident in the City of Somerville and would like to speak to the regular airplane noise one of the most highly populated cities in the country is frequently exposed to.

The frequency, timing and level of airplane noise in Somerville substantially affects the quality of life for the residents in Somerville and adds to the stress level on top of increasing traffic congestion. Often the level of airplane noise is particularly high in the evenings and on week end mornings when a working population in Somerville should have time to rest and relax. Frequently airplanes fly remarkably low over residential houses in Somerville, which adds to noise level and to stress and anxiety not only in children. Nobody of us signed up to live on an airport runway.

I myself have begun to consider a move away from Somerville with the high amount of traffic and construction sites, lack of green spaces and the airplane noise the three most important factors in this decision.

The flight route of airplanes over a highly populated residential area like Somerville is a poor choice when it is clear that other routes are available. The lack of height for a number of these airplane routes is equally or even more concerning and cannot be justified.

Angelika Fretzen
7 Avon Street
Somerville, MA

Sent from my iPad

John Long

From: David Knisely <david.knisely@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 11:44 AM
To: City Clerk Contact
Cc: Joseph Curtatone; Katjana Ballantyne
Subject: Logan

TO: Somerville City Council Committee on Public Safety

Re: public hearing on airplane noise

Dear Committee Members,

The noise we experience from Logan flights are leaving on runway 33L have is constant, deafening, and very disruptive to our lives.

We live and work in Davis Square. The noise levels sound like a wartime incursion. Disruptive flights occur for hours on end, as often as 30 seconds apart, at all hours of the day and night. The noise is disruptive to conversation, concentration on office work, telephone calls, and television viewing. It even disrupts sleep, as the flights continue on until very late at night and at dawn in the morning, even loud overnight flights to China.

We are city people, and cities can be noisy. We wouldn't object to occasional airport noise, as we have experienced tolerable flights in our years past. It is only in recent years, apparently related to runway 33L, that the noise has become extremely absolutely intolerable.

We've phoned Massport, written to them a number of times complaining about the number and frequency of flights and just received a series of form letters in response, bureaucratic dodges blaming the FAA and doing absolutely nothing to solve the problem. We have participated in a number of community meetings organizing to amplify our voice in light of the severity of the problem. This has become a major community issue — actually a regional issue, as we are aware of the many other cities and towns now organizing to address the problem. Word of expansion of Logan Airport is worrying.

We urge you to take any and every action you can to get some worthwhile response from Massport and the FAA who both seem indifferent to the impacts on the community. We hope you will keep us advised of any progress you are able to make on behalf of us and our Somerville neighbors.

Thank you to Jesse Clingan for your committee meeting September 18th. We were unable to attend, but welcome the opportunity to add our voices to the many others experiencing this offensive condition.

Best regards

David Knisely
Kathleen Knisely
30 Howard Street, Unit 3
Somerville, MA 02144

John Long

From: Allison Stieber <allistieb@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 12:14 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Cc: City Council
Subject: Public comment on air-traffic issue
Attachments: PUBLIC COMMENT ON AIR TRAFFIC.docx

I've attached the comment that I read last night at the hearing.

Allison Stieber
14 Wyatt Street

COMMENTS ON AIR-TRAFFIC SITUATION AFFECTING SOMERVILLE

SUBMITTED TO THE CITY CLERK ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

My name is Allison Stieber. I live in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. In the late 1990's I was instrumental in obtaining first-time representation for Somerville on the Citizens Advisory Committee to Massport, known as the CAC, and I served as the City's alternate representative to the CAC for many years. I was also a board member of Communities Against Runway Expansion, known as CARE, in the late 1990s extending into the early 2000's. Far from being a NIMBY organization, CARE comprised nearly 30 Greater Boston-area communities. I'm here tonight with my friends Elizabeth and Brian Merrick, who live in West Somerville, one of the neighborhoods that's being afflicted by saturation levels of air traffic on a regular basis. The three of us worked very hard, as members of CARE, to ensure that this type of situation wouldn't come to pass. At that time, the concern was a proposed new runway, 14/32, that carried projections of double-to-triple increase in air traffic over Somerville.

Until recent implementation of the RNAV navigation system it seemed as though our efforts had been largely successful. So it's deeply disappointing to have to be here once again, trying to press the same argument as before, that being: residents' peaceful enjoyment of their homes, including the expectation of a night's sleep free from the din of planes, ought not be merely a fleeting phenomenon, dispensed at the whim of the FAA and Massport, or even worse, by an inherently inequitable navigational system.

My own neighborhood has for the most part been spared the excessive barrages of aircraft inflicted by RNAV that I've both heard about and witnessed in other neighborhoods. I realize that a more equitable dispersion of planes might mean more flights over my neighborhood. As long as the result isn't simply to create new sacrificial neighborhoods such as we have now, however, I'm resigned to that outcome.

Allison Stieber, 14 Wyatt Street, Somerville

John Long

From: Eileen <elevett@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 1:57 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Airplane noise in our neighborhood

To Whom it May Concern:

I moved from Union Square to Davis Square two years ago. With such a little distance change I thought I knew a lot about Somerville. The first surprise was that sitting on my porch was not something that I could expect to do. There were times that a friend came to visit and we tried to sit outside and were forced indoors. The planes were relentless, passing over head very low and loud.

In this past year, I must admit, it seems to have gotten a little less frequent. On the other hand, late night and early morning flights continue. I went to visit a cousin, in California, and was told that they cannot fly after 9 pm. That seemed very civilized!

Please listen to peoples urgent requests. Some are effected more seriously and that should not be acceptable. I join my neighbors in demanding that these voices be heard and respected.

Thank you for the opportunity to write you about this serious concern.

Eileen Levett
32 Campbell Park
Somerville, MA02144

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

John Long

From: Jonathan McNeill <mcneill.jonathan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 2:53 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Testimony on airplane noise

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to share my concern around the airplane noise over the City of Somerville. I live in the Powerhouse area between Davis and Ball Square. Our family dreads the shifting of weather which increases airplane traffic above our home to unbearable levels. I believe it is critical to balance the benefits of RNAV with the costs of the affected communities.

Best,
Jonathan McNeill

John Long

From: Erin Dempsey <dempseye3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 3:38 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Airplane Noise Complaint

Hi,

I live on Powderhouse Blvd on the third floor of a wooden house and the noise/shaking from aircrafts is constant and insane. Often, there are planes 2-3 minutes apart from each other for hours on end. It is hugely disruptive to my quality of life.

Thank you

John Long

From: Michael Allen <moa762@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 3:49 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Cc: Caroline Sherrard
Subject: Submission of Public Testimony on Airplane Noise

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing in support of the FAA's airplane safety and efficiency program known as RNAV and against time spent by local officials to address this non-issue. Although like any program RNAV could surely be improved at the margins, the outcry over airplane noise around the country is merely the entitled frustration of wealthy Americans experiencing a rarity: facing the externalities of their own affluent lives.

Whatever people may say, this is not a major quality of life issue. We are not entitled to both the benefits of affluent life and pristine living, all while in an urban environment. The reason we are not entitled to this is because there are environmental, economic and social costs to that lifestyle. When some (inevitably more economically and politically powerful) people do not have to face the downsides of their lifestyles, other (inevitably poor and economically disadvantaged) people suffer those consequences.

Any time spent on this issue beyond the bare minimum required to make frustrated citizens feel heard is time misspent. Somerville officials and even state level officials do not have any chance of achieving progress on this issue, nor should they. It is appropriate for interstate air travel to be regulated at the federal level, and for those regulations to be primarily based on safety and efficiency. This is a time when representative democracy serves us well because our elected officials can have the good sense to confine this issue to the backs of file cabinets and occasional hearings for public venting.

We will continue to support the efforts of any elected officials who seek to avoid working on this issue or, better yet, speak truth to the electorate about both the impossibility of progress and the reality of the externalities of our wealthy lives.

Regards,
Michael Allen and Caroline Sherrard
45 Josephine Avenue #3
Somerville, MA 02144

John Long

From: Meg Rosenberg <meg.rosenberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 4:29 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Logan airplane noise public comment

Hello,

I am a resident of Somerville in the Powderhouse area, and would like to submit my testimony on the airplane noise from Logan, which has been just unbearable this summer. Even with the windows shut, the engines make a huge roaring sound, and spending any time outside at all has been very unpleasant, absolutely preventing conversation in our own backyard. On the worst days, we've had planes fly the same path every 90 seconds or so, from 5:30am to midnight with very little respite. When we moved to Somerville four years ago and invested in a home, the problem did not seem so acute, but the past two months or so have been noticeably much worse.

I am expecting my first child in the spring and we're concerned about the health effects these low-flying planes will have on our family, compounded over years. I appreciate the efforts to redistribute the flight paths more equitably from the narrow lanes they are now following, and I sincerely hope something will actually change.

Thank you for listening to the public on this issue.

Best wishes,
Meg Rosenberg
22 Billingham St.

John Long

From: Emily Lacika <emilylacika@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 5:00 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: airplane noise

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to voice my concerns about airplane noise in Somerville. Noise is a normal part of urban life, but the noise from planes flying overhead is not only loud, it occurs with such frequency that it magnifies the disturbance. Additionally, many of these planes are flying low enough that it is possible to make out the airline logo on the tail. I realize that airplanes leaving Logan need to fly over some part of Greater Boston. It would be nice if that noise can be more evenly distributed across areas.

Sincerely,
Emily Lacika
11 Henry Ave
Somerville 02144

John Long

From: Elizabeth and Brian Merrick <ebm333@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 7:07 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Written testimony on airplane noise

September 19, 2019

Somerville City Council
Committee on Public Health and Public Safety

We are writing in regard to the seriously problematic air traffic noise we are subjected to in our West Somerville (Ward 6) neighborhood.

We are frequently subjected to hours on end of very loud aircraft over our immediate neighborhood, with flights sometimes less than two minutes apart. We are often kept up late at night by a barrage of noise (sometimes well past midnight) and/or awakened very early in the morning (e.g., 6 a.m.), and sometimes both at once so it is impossible to get an adequate amount of sleep. Sometimes they string together multiple days of severe noise disruption.

This has seriously impacted our quality of life, sleep, stress level, use of our own yard (it was not even safe to plan to have people over to socialize outdoors this summer since one never knew if conversation would even be possible), and ability to relax indoors with the windows open at this time of year (or even with windows shut). At times we resorted to closing all windows and turning on the air conditioning, only for the purpose of partially blocking the overwhelming noise, which permeates nonetheless. This is clearly a waste of money and energy, and really a bad thing in this era of climate change. Year-round, when this noise bombardment is occurring, it's impossible to ignore. And of course it's known that severe noise pollution like this has various health impacts.

We're not seeking a silent, pristine oasis. We choose to live in an urban environment. We live on a busy street. But nothing compares with the overwhelming, intrusive nature of airplanes taking off over one's head, one after another for many hours at a time. It absolutely ruins quality of life and begs the question of whether the positives of living here in West Somerville can continue to outweigh this onslaught of toxic noise.

It's patently unreasonable and unfair to burden (victimize) selected neighborhoods like ours with a hugely disproportionate share of air traffic impacts. Common sense would dictate that this is completely misguided. If dispersed and shared properly, air traffic would be far more tolerable, and likely within the bounds of acceptable to most people. In what simplistic, illogical world is this current arrangement thought to be a good solution? (That's a rhetorical question; clearly the answer is, in the FAA.) Meanwhile, Massport is busily engaged in facilitating airport expansion, the number of flights allowed by the FAA will continue to increase, and that's applauded by some as an excellent business development. Community

well-being continues to carry no weight in any of the decision making. That obviously needs to change.

We urge you to do your utmost to work on solving this serious problem. Knowing as we do that the FAA and Massport are essentially unconcerned about airport impacts on actual people down on the ground, it's clear that aggressive action, in solidarity with other affected communities, will be needed.

Elizabeth and Brian Merrick
967 Broadway, Somerville MA 02144

John Long

From: Michael Morrissey <michaelsmorrissey@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 10:32 AM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Airplane noise hearing

Hi,

I wasn't able to make the open discussion at the high school the other day on airplane noise, but I'd like to submit my thoughts for the written record.

My name is Michael Morrissey and I live at 158 Albion St Apt. 2 in Somerville, MA. I am in my sixth year at my apartment and the airplane noise is one of the only reasons I am considering leaving. It is so loud and literally every 2 minutes on the bad days. It is torture. I've called massport and 311 dozens of times and I am glad that it is finally being addressed. Airplane noise lowers the quality of my life and there is not much I can do about it except move. I now carry and wear ear plugs outside in Somerville because of the plane noise.

Thanks,
Michael Morrissey

John Long

From: Hayes, Thomas C. <thayes@fas.harvard.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 10:33 AM
To: City Clerk Contact
Cc: debs; manning-paterson
Subject: airplane noise

Hello,

I understand that no neighborhood is entitled to say, 'Not over me; send them over someone else.'

My request and suggestion is that airliners should gain altitude on takeoff, and lose it on approach, *over the ocean*. Boston has the good fortune to have a large area *where no one lives*, adjacent to the airport. If aircraft were at higher altitude as they passed over neighborhoods, their noise pollution would be much less (falling off, roughly, as the square of their altitude).

The only cost of such a change would be perhaps a small increase in fuel use, to account for the descent or ascent over water, before or after the crossing of land.

Thank you,

Tom Hayes

39 Cogswell Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140

John Long

From: Mike Kaplan <mlkaplan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 4:36 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on Airplane Noise, 9/18

I spoke at the 9/18 hearing, and I would like to add the following to my public comments:

Wig Zamore should no longer be the MCAC representative from Somerville. While his work in the past for environmental justice on many fronts is laudable, he does not seem willing to accept that there is an actual problem today that needs to be solved. His reliance on outdated statistics that do not reflect the reality over houses in Somerville in 2019, his diminishing of this issue by using an apples-and-oranges comparison with I-93 highway noise, and his flippant opinion that not enough people are complaining to justify action all speak to someone who is out of touch. It is abundantly clear that he is not personally affected by the changes inflicted on residents by RNAV, and thus does not take it as seriously as the 14,000 of us who are. It is time for Mayor Curtatone to thank Wig Zamore for his past work, and appoint a new representative who believes that working with other communities for equitable dispersion of flights departing Logan is the correct course of action to provide relief to Somerville's residents.

Sincerely,
Michael Kaplan
52 Irving Street

John Long

From: JEN FUCHEL <jfuchel@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 8:01 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Airplane noise

The increase of airplane noise these last few years has negatively effected our quality of life. When we are outside, we need to stop conversation every 3 minutes because of the noise. Sometimes the planes are low and that worries us about chemicals. And the night planes wake us up. Please figure out how to stop these low loud flights over heavily populated areas. Thanks. Jen

Sent from my iPhone

John Long

From: w c <willcook879@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 8:58 AM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Airplane noise

Hello,

I wasn't able to make the Wednesday meeting on Airplane Noise but wanted to register my concern as a Somerville home owner and resident about the dramatic impact that airplane noise is having on our public health, given it's concentrated nature over certain areas of Somerville.

I lived in Somerville before the RNAV switch and after, and I never noticed the airplanes before the switch. Since moving into a property I own near Davis Square in 2016, we've been painfully aware of the noise, often registering at or above 60-65 decibels, for hours a day, as early as 5am and late as midnight. On the worst days, that leaves us with between 4 to 5 hours of quiet. That is not enough, which is why some cities have restrictions on when airports can be active. Since we seem a long way away from that sort of resident-first approach, we should at least come up with a system which doesn't place a complete and overwhelming burden on a concentrated number of residents. It only seems like the traffic at Logan is growing, and as it does, the burden only becomes greater. Further, there are times when the controllers at Logan seem to prefer to use 33L (the runway pointing at our community) even when regulations or winds don't require them to do so. As a city, we should be protecting our residents from this escalating burden. I believe property values and resident health are ultimately at stake.

Please take some action on our behalf.

- Resident