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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

July 28, 2014

Mr. John J. Long
City Clerk
City of Somerville
Boston, MA 02128

Dear Mr. Long:

On behalf of Thomas Glynn, Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), I am writing to follow up on your July 21 letter related to aircraft overflight noise in the area of West Somerville during the June time period.

As you are aware, Boston Logan International Airport (Boston Logan) is an urban airport located just two miles from downtown Boston. Depending on which runways are in use different communities around Boston Logan maybe overflown. The Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Control (FAA) is responsible for choosing the appropriate runways to utilize given wind and weather conditions. For safety, the FAA seeks to utilize the available runways most closely aligned with the wind direction.

The area of West Somerville is primarily overflown when Boston Logan's Runway 33L (R33L) is in use for departures- typically when winds are from the Northwest. In New England, Northwest winds are more common in the winter and spring time period. For example, in February 2014 R33L departures totaled over 11% of all jet flights. Based on our June runway use statistics, R33L departures totaled about 5.5% of all Logan jet activity during the period. After reviewing the weather information for the month of June, the Boston region did experience multiple periods of strong northwest winds which resulted in the FAA utilizing R33L for departures.

Thank you for writing to Massport.

Sincerely,

Flavio Leo
Deputy Director
Aviation Planning and Strategy
Massachusetts Port Authority

Cc: T. Glynn (Massport), J. Masso (Massport)