

Dear Council Members,

My written testimony is intended to voice my support for Bill 24-23 to establish an Airpark Community Advisory Committee. It's my belief that the Committee would benefit the Airpark business, residents located near the Airpark, Montgomery County Residents at large, and Montgomery County Councilmembers, as follows:

- The Airpark business would benefit from the Committee because community concerns could be channeled through the Committee and dealt with in a meaningful and methodical way, rather than constantly receiving a barrage of complaints and suggestions from every venue possible. I'm also convinced there are some simple, no-cost, low-impact solutions to residential safety concerns that simply have not been given serious consideration by Airpark management, and the Committee would provide opportunities to learn about these solutions. The Airpark might also be able to obtain direct feedback from customers that rely on their services regarding what might be missing, and what services should remain a priority. When changes to Airpark operations are being considered, the Committee could provide strategic benefits to Airpark management by allowing them to obtain preliminary feedback from affected parties within the community before significant resources are committed.
- Residents within the immediate flight pattern surrounding the Airpark could realize improved confidence that everything possible is being done to ensure their safety and could communicate possible solutions to Airpark management where that confidence does not currently exist. Potential solutions to quality-of-life issues affected by the Airpark, e.g., noise created by a small percentage of Airpark users, might also be discussed with Airpark management to identify possible remedies. Awareness of Airpark future business and operational plans that could potentially affect property values would also be a major benefit to residents if the Committee is established.
- Montgomery County residents that use the Airpark, whether pilots, students, passengers, flight logistical support businesses, or businesses that rely on Airpark services, will have a clear path to communicate desired services and capabilities which they can benefit from, e.g., desired flights and destinations, employments goals, pilot and other flight-related training, etc. It's not clear how desired services could currently be communicated to Airpark management so they can be evaluated and included in planning and operations budgets when appropriate.
- The Committee would generate critical data necessary for Councilmember use in planning and to serve as a basis for decision making, which does not currently exist. Councilmembers will also benefit because they will be able to demonstrate in a tangible way that they are being responsive to the concerns of their constituents and be able to cite the Committee as a clear example if ever challenged.

Because of these clear benefits to the mentioned stakeholders, it seems reasonable that the proposed Bill to establish the Committee should be supported by all Councilmembers.

Respectfully,

Carl Pocratsky

