

6/12/2023

Dear County Council Members:

My name is Catherine Wallenmeyer, a resident of Montgomery County for 23 plus years. I live approximately 4 miles from Montgomery County Airpark and have seen our communities' negatively impacted from the unprecedented growth of flight school training activities and charter jets at Montgomery County Airpark. I am writing to urge you to pass Bill 24-23 to reinstate an airport advisory council within our County. The presence of an Airport Council plays a crucial role in facilitating effective communication and collaboration between the airport authorities, MCRA, pilots and the community.

The Airport Council serves as a platform for key stakeholders to come together and discuss matters related to airport operations, development plans, environmental impacts, and community concerns. It provides an avenue for dialogue, allowing for transparent decision making processes and an opportunity for public input.

By reinstating the Airport Council, we can ensure that the interests and concerns of both the aviation industry and the local community are properly addressed. This collaborative approach fosters a more comprehensive understanding of challenges and opportunities associated with airport operations.

In addition, the Airport Council can actively engage with the community, environmental agencies, etc., to ensure sustainable practices within the aviation industry. This collaboration can lead to the adoption and support of greener technologies, reduced carbon emissions and mitigated environmental impacts to the communities surrounding the airport. There has to be a path forward to eliminate the impacts and risks of lead poisoning the use of leaded fuel sold at the airport poses to the community. Over 100K gallons of leaded fuel were sold at the airport in one year.

Overall, reinstating the Airport Council demonstrates a commitment to effective governance, transparency, and community engagement. It is a valuable mechanism to address the needs of the aviation sector while safeguarding the interests of our local community.

I respectfully request your consideration to reinstate an Airport Council to foster the collaboration for all stakeholders involved.

Thank you,

Catherine Wallenmeyer

Gaithersburg, MD resident