

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY COUNCIL CALLS FOR FAA STUDY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TO COMBAT NOISE AT VAN NUYS AIRPORT

January 18, 2019 – Los Angeles, CA – Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz of the Fifth District today introduced a City Council motion calling for Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), the operator of Van Nuys Airport, to involve the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in reviewing noise impacts in the neighborhoods near that airport caused by FAA-mandated changes in take-off patterns instituted in 2017. The motion calls for a Part 175 review process as set forth in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

“The City and communities had worked together to phase out Stage 2 jets at Van Nuys earlier in this decade and then the FAA inexplicably changed the take-off patterns to place low altitude departing jets directly over residential neighborhoods without bothering to talk to residents about it,” said Councilmember Koretz. “The FAA needs to double-back and revisit the matter.”

"The Federal Aviation Administration's decision to dramatically increase air traffic over residential neighborhoods is harmful to our communities and our environment," Councilmember David Ryu (CD4) said who seconded the motion along with Councilmember Paul Krekorian (CD2). "Worst of all, they made this choice without engaging the City or the public. This lack of transparency is unacceptable, and we continue to urge the FAA to come to the table and work with us on finding a better way."

The 2017 change in take-off patterns saw the “way point,” the location where departing jets can begin their east- or west-bound turns, moved southward by .65 miles. This means they now turn over neighborhoods instead of turning over the unpopulated Sepulveda Basin. Noise complaints registered by LAWA jumped 622% from October 2017 to October 2018.

Consistent with the provisions of Part 175, Koretz’s motion calls for LAWA to formally request a noise study and community input process that could lead to restoration of the old way point that was not generating significant complaints. It also calls for the FAA to rescind the change in the meantime.

The motion was referred to the City Council’s Innovation, Grants, Trade, Commerce and Technology Committee which handles airport matters.

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