



June 15, 2023

To: Councilman John Lee CD12: Joshua Yeager, Lorena Espinal
Traci Park (T3 – Trade, Travel, Tourism – Committee Chair): Keven Brunke, Jacob Burman
Paul Krekorian, City Council President: Sahag Yedalian, City Clerk Office.
Mayor Bass: Karren Lane, Michelle Vergara, Erin Seinfeld

RE: Systemic issues at LAWA, A Rejection of the Bonseph Helinet Lease proposal and Support for a Moratorium on aviation development/redevelopment at VNY airport.

Dear Honorable City Leadership,

The North Hills West Neighborhood Council (NHWNC) requests that the City Council, our Mayor, and the Chair of the Travel, Trade, and Tourism committee (T3, Councilwoman Traci Park) accept our consensus to seek a responsible rejection of the Bonseph Helinet lease proposal, support for a moratorium on VNY aviation development until which time a Specific Airport Plan has been adopted, and to ensure that LAWA complies with CF22-1489 by its deadline, among other cited issues.

On November 17, 2022, the NHWNC approved an action and subsequently submitted a CIS in support of CF-22-1127. After that submission, the motion was amended by PLUM via request of council district 6 HOWEVER, CD6 has no seated council member to give such a directive WHEREAS, communities were blind-sided by an amendment that effectively created a loophole for LAWA to avoid creating a Specific Airport Plan. This amendment empowered LAWA to surge forward with their “VNY Vision Study” that has, to date, circumvented meaningful community input.

On April 19, 2023, LAWA presented three VNY development/redevelopment “options” that the airport sponsor sought no documented community input on and failed to first present to VNY CAC or the VNY CAC Vision Study Ad Hoc. MOREOVER, these options were not substantiated by research or studies that would allow the public to realize any potential increases in auto or air traffic that may impact their areas based on LAWA’s presented suggestions. Moving forward with unvetted options that the public is notably rejecting is a concern to the NHWNC and is the basis for the support of a moratorium on aviation development/redevelopment at VNY airport until which time City Council reestablishes a mandate that the Dept. of City Planning, in collaboration with LAWA and the impacted communities, research and create a Specific Airport Plan to replace the existing plan and zoning ordinance 177.327.

At its regular meeting on June 15, 2023, the NHWNC was presented with a Bonseph Helinet powerpoint exposing the proposal to be a Jets for Charter expansion, a fact that LAWA’s December 1, 2022 report to the Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) failed to disclose. The powerpoint also highlighted plans and imagery from the proposal depicting an expansion of Hangar space that may be too egregious for property boundaries. The proposed Hangar space may fail to accommodate the City’s long-term goals of upgrading the airport’s power capacity



and modernizing the entire property to reduce toxic APU emissions from ground operations. Such upgrades are critical to the immediate health of adjacent communities and businesses. For these reasons, the NHWNC supports and requests a rejection of the Bonseph Helinet proposal and encourages the City to responsibly explore its options for the property that better meet the City and its citizens' best interests. NO contractual rights should be granted under the guise of "adjustments" to the proposal, as there is no guarantee such adjustments would be made in good faith, and granting additional opportunities for the investor to better meet the City's objectives and needs would be seen as an unfair advantage that contradicts the intent of Fair-Competition laws WHEREAS, alternatives should be sought through an unbiased and new RFP process after a new Specific Airport Plan has been adopted.

At its regular meeting on June 15, 2023, the NHWNC also approved submitting a CIS on CF22-1489. We have attached that CIS to this letter and request your attention to its content. We would like to highlight recent concerns and request that Mayor Bass, City Council, and the T3 Chair (Councilwoman Traci Park) make a note of these events and take action to work to rectify the problems and create a policy to protect the City and its citizens moving forward.

Recent events of concern include, but are not limited to:

- A staff member in CD6 unilaterally put forth an amendment to CF22-1127 without an elected official directive, AND that is seen by impacted communities in multiple council districts as undermining the intent and potency of the motion.
- LAWA's failure to timely produce the report back mandated by CF22-1125.
- LAWA's failure to timely produce the report back mandated by CF22-1489.
- LAWA's failure to meaningfully, or at all, engage with the community in creating viable, researched, and studied options for the redevelopment of VNY airport as demonstrated by the airport sponsor's April 19, 2023 "open house" where they force-fed community three contrived and unvetted "option boards" to "choose from" that (again) were void of relevant studies or pre-screening by the VNY CAC Vision Study Ad Hoc.

The NHWNC sees this as a critical time for Mayor Bass and City Council to recognize the need for transparency and accountability from leadership that includes city agencies AND to address the systemic problems recently exposed regarding policy, or lack thereof, and actions by LAWA that are not proving to be in this City or its citizens' best interests.

Sincerely,
Madlena Minasian – North Hills West NC, President