

RESOLUTION: A RESOLUTION ON AIRPORT SAFETY AND NOISE**DRAFT: 25 SEPT 2024**

Resolution by the Transportation Committee of the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) to the Membership, to be introduced at the 8 October 2023 Membership Meeting and voted at the November 2024 Membership Meeting.

Time for a Change at National Airport

- Whereas Ronald Reagan National Airport has the shortest runway lengths¹, is surrounded by tall buildings, has and one of the most complex landing patterns of any major airport in the U.S, and
- Whereas it is located in the midst of a densely populated urban agglomeration within the District of Columbia, Arlington, Alexandria, and Bethesda, and many people in Fairfax, Montgomery, and Prince George Counties are also impacted by flight plans for approaches and departures.
- Whereas some 800 take-offs and landings occur every 24 hours, or about 25,000 flights a month², that result in a continuous, significant sonic impact on well over 100,000 persons in the direct flight path of the airport, and many more if the wide range of counties are included.
- Whereas one catastrophic crash and several near-misses³ have occurred⁴ since 1982, and
- Whereas air travel is a significant contributor to the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and
- Whereas the United States has committed itself to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions⁵ throughout its transportation sector, and
- Whereas a percentage of flights are connecting to short-distance destinations that are effectively served by high-efficiency Amtrak trains, and
- Whereas the Washington area has two other larger airports, with one in Virginia, and both with longer runways and safer landing patterns,

¹ Runway length is 7160 ft. Ronald Reagan Runway Information, <https://www.globalair.com/airport/apt.runway.aspx?aptcode=dca>

² Reagan National Airport Essential Airport Information and Services—Flights per month <https://dcawashingtonairport.com/statistics>

³ Collision Narrowly Avoided at Reagan National Airport...CNN News (April 18, 2024) <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/18/us/washington-ronald-reagan-airport-plane-crash/index.html>

⁴ Flight forced to abort takeoff at Reagan National Airport to avoid another plane. It's the second such incident in 6 weeks" CNN News May 31, 2024. <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/18/us/washington-ronald-reagan-airport-plane-crash/index.html>

⁵ U.D. 3032 Aviation Climate Action Plan, https://www.faa.gov/sites/faa.gov/files/2021-11/Aviation_Climate_Action_Plan.pdf

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Thus, be it Resolved that for safety, noise and environmental reasons, all local, state and federal elected officials are urged to undertake the following:

- (a) seek to divert excessive and unsafe levels of traffic to Dulles Airport through increased subsidies for landing fees at Dulles to encourage airlines to use this facility as a departure and destination location;
- (b) seek increased deployment of increased noise and environmental monitors and more frequent public reporting of results;
- (c) seek an independent assessment of the noise, environmental impact, and safety factors for concerns such as “one engine inoperability” on takeoff at Reagan National Airport in comparison to all other major airports in the US;
- (d) seek to advance the national schedule for airlines to retrofit aircraft with noise abatement and environmental mitigation equipment; and
- (e) use all of other legislative and regulatory means available to meliorate the adverse safety, environmental, and noise conditions represented by Reagan National Airport