

RESOLUTION NO. 20-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION MODIFY ITS SOUTH-CENTRAL FLORIDA METROPLEX PROJECT SO AS TO EMPLOY DEPARTURE PROCEDURES AT FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THAT ADDRESS NOISE IMPACTS TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY.

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WHEREAS, airspace issues relating to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) are managed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) pursuant to federal statutes, regulations, and procedures; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2015, after receiving reports of low-flying aircraft outside of established departure corridors from neighbors residing in the southeast and southwest sections of the City of Fort Lauderdale, the City adopted Resolution number 15-68 identifying the need for a proactive approach to address aircraft noise at FLL by exploring flight pattern opportunities that are reasonable and provide operational safety while also reducing noise impacts to residential areas; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2016, after receiving further reports of low-flying aircraft over residential areas in southwest Fort Lauderdale, the City adopted Resolution number 16-85 identifying the need for modified departure procedures that are reasonable and provide operational safety, while reducing aircraft noise impacts to southwest Fort Lauderdale residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, current FAA flight procedures purport to require aircraft departing FLL in west flow to remain over industrial areas immediately west of the airport; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding existing procedures purporting to require aircraft to remain over industrial areas immediately west of the airport, the City has received reports that neighbors living in the southwest section of Fort Lauderdale continue to experience low-flying aircraft over residential areas and resulting noise impacts, indicating that existing procedures are not being flown as designed; and

WHEREAS, neighbors living in southwest Fort Lauderdale filed 44,451 aircraft noise complaints with the Broward County Aviation Department in 2019, which is 4 times more than the total of all the complaints filed by the citizens in the rest of Broward County; and

WHEREAS, the FAA has proposed the South-Central Florida Metroplex Project (Project), which, among other things would implement Area Navigation (RNAV) departure procedures from FLL; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, FAA convened a series of “public workshops” at which neighbors living in southwest Fort Lauderdale requests that FAA identify and implement departure procedures whereby aircraft departing FLL in west flow would be required to remain over industrial areas immediately west of the airport rather than crossing over residential areas of the City north of Interstate-595; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2020, the FAA released a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Assessment does not address the departure procedures requested by southwest Fort Lauderdale neighbors during FAA’s 2019 public workshops; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Assessment, together with its appendices and associated data files, predict that if the Project is implemented aircraft departing FLL in west flow will not be restricted to industrial areas immediately west of the airport, but will also fly over residential areas of southwest Fort Lauderdale at low altitudes; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Assessment also predicts that if the Project is implemented aircraft departing FLL in east flow will fly over residential areas of southeast Fort Lauderdale at low altitudes; and

WHEREAS, the FAA did not hold public meetings or hearings on the Draft Environmental Assessment or the proposed Project, but instead hosted a series of Metroplex “webinars”; and

WHEREAS, the FAA has repeatedly stated that neither the Metroplex webinars, nor the public questions and comments submitted as part of the webinars, nor the FAA’s responses to those questions and comments will be part of the decision-making record for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City has received numerous reports of problems with the FAA's Metroplex webinars, including reports of situations where FAA officials refused to respond to some of the questions submitted by the public, situations where FAA officials inaccurately paraphrased questions submitted by the public, and situations where the graphics and images presented by the FAA were too small to be read by participants; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Assessment also uses "averaged" computer models in depicting noise levels, which does not accurately depict high short-term noise levels that occur frequently, especially during periods of west winds; and

WHEREAS, Section 175 of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018 requires the FAA to consider using diverging departure flight paths or later spacing to address community noise concerns when proposing or adjusting departure procedures, if requested the by the airport operator and community leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City Commission requests FAA take all reasonable steps to identify, evaluate, and implement alternatives to currently proposed departure procedures so as to minimize aircraft over residential areas of southeast and southwest Fort Lauderdale, including alternatives consistent with Section 175 of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission requests FAA, in taking the actions referenced in Section 1, to identify, evaluate, and implement alternative departure procedures no less protective of the City's residential areas than the proposals set forth in the City's formal comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment.

SECTION 3. That the City Commission requests FAA immediately prepare and implement an enforceable plan to ensure FLL departures follow published departure procedures in both east and west flow operations, and, further, that the FAA report to the City Commission no less than quarterly regarding the plan's implementation and enforcement.

SECTION 4. That the City Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Director of Aviation for the Broward County Aviation Department.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon final passage.

Adopted, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

ATTEST:

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Mayor  
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

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City Clerk  
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI