

RESOLUTION NO: 16-2009  
INTRODUCED BY MAYOR URSU & COUNCIL

**A RESOLUTION ADVISING THE FEDERAL AVIATION  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS'  
UNEQUIVOCAL OPPOSITION TO THE EXTENSION OF THE  
RUNWAY AT CUYAHOGA COUNTY AIRPORT.**

WHEREAS, at their regular meeting on February 12, 2009 the Cuyahoga County Commissioners voted to grant authority to the County's Department of Development/Airport Division to submit various draft documents to the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") consisting of an Airport Layout Plan, an Airport Master Plan, and a Runway Safety Area Study which recommends Alternate #38 calling for a 900-foot extension of the existing runway at the Cuyahoga County Airport located in the City of Richmond Heights and at the borders of the Cities of Highland Heights and Willoughby Hills along with relocation of a portion of Richmond Road in the City of Richmond Heights and the altering of a section of Bishop Road in the Cities of Highland Heights and Willoughby Hills; and

WHEREAS, at the same meeting on February 12, 2009, as well as at a similar Cuyahoga County Commissioners meeting on April 24, 2008, a large group of representatives from Richmond Heights, Highland Heights, and Willoughby Hills made clear to the Cuyahoga County Commissioners their firm opposition to any proposals that would extend the existing runway or change the configuration of Richmond Road and/or Bishop Road; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2008, the Richmond Heights City Council passed Resolution No. 33-2008 supporting certain safety related improvements but opposing the proposed runway extension at Cuyahoga County Airport; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2008, the Highland Heights City Council passed Resolution No. 17-2008 opposing both the enlargement of and the expansion of the use of the Cuyahoga County Airport; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2008, the Willoughby Hills City Council passed Resolution Nos. 3 & 4-2008 notifying the Cuyahoga County and Lake County Commissioners of their intent to oppose any runway expansion of the Cuyahoga County Airport.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: The Federal Aviation Administration is hereby advised that the action taken by the Cuyahoga County Commissioners in regard to a runway extension at Cuyahoga County Airport is strenuously opposed by the City of Richmond Heights, and that the City will take whatever measures it can lawfully take to prevent the runway extension or to change the current alignment of Richmond Road, for the following reasons:

- (a) The current space between the Richmond Road and Bishop Road rights of way is sufficient to relocate the current 5,102-foot runway and provide adequate safety areas on either end of the runway. As opposed to Alternate 38, Alternate 8 (which was rejected because there appears to be a predetermined intent to extend the runway) addresses the safety areas, allows for declared distances to maximize the use of the current runway, and keeps the airport within the current fence lines.
- (b) The runway extension is proposed to enhance corporate jet traffic. However, based on the County consultant's own surveys, there was little demand for a longer runway among the jet aircraft users surveyed. The primary safety concern among users of Cuyahoga County Airport today, according to the surveys, is the *condition* of the runway, ramps and taxiways, not the length of the runway. Current jet traffic has decreased over the past year and the current and foreseeable demand for corporate jet travel is low.
- (c) As demonstrated by the consultant's own statistical data, the extension will increase the already unacceptable noise levels and other environmental damage currently endured by residents living under the runway flight path.
- (d) Relocation of Richmond Road, with the proposed double reverse curves, as described in the highway consultant's feasibility study (ref. Euthenics August 1992), would create an unsafe driving condition for motorists, as well as for the City's emergency vehicles.
- (e) Given the current state of the overall economy in the country, and particularly in Northeast Ohio, and the government budget deficits at all levels of government at this time, it is not fiscally prudent for the federal government, or any level of government, to spend millions of

dollars for a runway extension when the demand does not exist, even if funds may be earmarked to do so.

Section 2: The Clerk of Council is instructed to forward copies of this Resolution to the Detroit, Michigan and Washington, D.C. offices of the FAA, the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, the Cities of Highland Heights and Willoughby Hills, and the City's representatives in Congress.

Section 3: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4: The Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_

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Daniel J. Ursu, Mayor

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Betsy Traben  
Clerk of Council

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David H. Roche  
President of Council