



## City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** General Purposes Committee  
**From:** Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning  
**Re:** **Airport Noise Management Update**

**Date:** September 14, 2007  
**File:** 01-0153-01/2007-Vol 01

### Staff Recommendation

That the attached report from the Manager, Policy Planning, entitled: "Airport Noise Management Update" dated September 14, 2007, be received for information.

Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO
			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

On September 10, 2007, Council passed the following resolution:

*That staff report to the General Purposes Committee on the issue of airport noise, with a status report on recent communications between the City of Richmond and YVR, and what the next steps for the City would be.*

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress in recent communications between the City and the Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR) concerning airport noise and public consultation.

### Findings Of Fact

On April 24, 2006, following the report from the Manager, Policy Planning, "Update: Aircraft Noise and Airport Planning Management", Council agreed:

- not to establish a City airport noise committee because YVR had agreed to hold a public meeting on airport noise, and
- to wait until YVR could brief Council on the findings of the public meeting.

Council passed the following motion:

- (1) *That, (as per Option 1 in the report dated April 7th, 2006 from the Manager, Policy Planning, entitled: Update: Aircraft Noise and Airport Planning Management), as the Vancouver International Airport Authority [VIAA] has agreed to hold a public meeting soon in 2006, to enable aircraft noise and airport planning issues to be discussed, the City not establish a City Airport Committee and await the VIAA to brief them on the findings of the public meeting.*
- (2) *That staff speak to the City's YVR Noise Management Committee members regarding their role in communicating issues relating to airport noise complaints, and seek an up-to-date status.*
- (3) *That the VIAA be asked to report to Council as soon as possible regarding flight paths over the City and the related regulations.*
- (4) *That these matters be reviewed in six months.*
- (5) *That City Council recommend to the YVR that the public be allowed to attend the Airport Noise Management Committee meetings.*

On July 11, 2006, YVR held an advertised public meeting to receive comments on airport noise issues. Approximately 100 people attended the meeting, with the majority being Richmond residents. Generally speaking, the public was concerned with night noise, float plane operations, and overhead flights. As a follow up, YVR agreed to:

- Post information on float plane operations on their web site;
- Provide the public comments and suggestions to the YVR 2027 Master Plan team; and
- Provide the public comments and suggestions to the YVR Aeronautical Noise Management Committee (YVR ANMC) for their consideration and to discuss options to address these concerns.

On December 4, 2006, Anne Murray, YVR Vice President, Community and Environmental Affairs, and the two City of Richmond representatives to the YVR ANMC, Tom Chan and James Watson, briefed Council on airport noise management matters, including:

- The Aeronautical Noise Management Committee;
- The Five Year Noise Management Plan; and
- Progress on implementing noise management initiatives.

Based on ongoing City staff discussions with YVR, at this time:

- It appears that YVR does not intend to hold further airport noise public meetings; and
- On October 3, 2007, the YVR ANMC will consider if it will allow public delegations concerning airport noise, at its committee meetings.

In addition to the two citizen representatives to the YVR ANMC, one City staff sits on the committee, and has requested that delegations be heard by the Committee. Staff will advise Council of the outcome of the October 3, 2007 meeting.

### **Analysis**

Staff have identified two options:

#### **Option 1: Not Establish A City Airport Noise Committee**

##### Description:

- Council not establish a City Airport Noise Committee and await the decision of the YVR ANMC to hear public delegations on airport noise.

The YVR ANMC agrees to hear public airport noise concerns.

- If the YVR ANMC does not hear delegations, then the City directs ACE to do so.

##### Pros:

- YVR is responsible for managing aircraft noise, not the City;
- YVR would hear public complaints directly, and
- The City avoids allocating scarce resources to such a committee.

##### Cons:

- The YVR ANMC may decide not to hear public delegations at its meetings.

Option 1 is staff's preferred option.

**Option 2: City Establishes a City Airport Noise Committee**

Description:

Council direct City staff to prepare terms of reference to establish a City Airport Noise Committee and present these to the October 15, 2007 General Purposes Committee meeting, for consideration.

Staff recommend that such a committee would not meet every month, but would be responsible for:

- holding two public meetings per year [e.g., spring and fall], and
- reporting the public's concerns to Council;
- making suggestions to Council.

Staff recommend that to minimize the negative impacts on limited City resources, an additional level be submitted to the 2008 budget process (e.g., \$10,000 per year) to advertise and host the public meetings and to report to Council.

Pros:

- The City would be providing two public forums per year, for the public to comment on airport noise issues and concerns.

Cons:

- The City has no authority to address or resolve airport noise issues;
- The City may inappropriately raise public expectations about achieving remedies and results;
- The City will continue to refer all comments to YVR;
- Additional budget allocations are required to support the committee; and
- The allocation of staff to support the committee will negatively impact and delay current work loads (e.g., West Cambie implementation, rezonings, development applications, progress on the upcoming building height study).

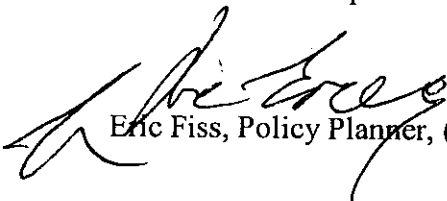
**Financial Impact**

Option 1 – no impact

Option 2 - \$10,000 per year

**Conclusion**

City staff have met on an ongoing basis with YVR to discuss strategies for improved public consultation on airport noise concerns. Two options are presented.



Eric Fiss, Policy Planner, (4193)