

Douglas Louth, 4140 Dallyn Road, Richmond BC V6X 2S7 / February 20, 2009

TO: MAYOR & EACH
COUNCILLOR
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Re: Council Agenda,
Item 9

Re: City of Richmond Comments: Proposed 2009 - 2013 YVR Noise Management Plan: February 23, 2009 - Agenda # 9

G'day Mr. Mayor and members of council

Almost nine months have gone by since I left for Aussie and its encouraging to see progress being made concerning YVR.

First, I would like to congratulate every member of council on their victory to serve the citizens of Richmond.

I want to respond to staffs report on YVR 2009 - 2013 noise management plan and its recommendations.

After reading the report, I certainly endorse staffs five recommendation on page 3 or 9 and their bold comments in attachments 1 and 2, pages 13 to 21.

However, I didn't notice any remarks by staff in the report on my next comment. This is the most radical change I would be making to YVR. I would recommend eliminating the YVR NOISE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE and replacing it with a new committee from the lower mainland cities. Over the years it has not functioned properly and has not advised councils as to changes occurring under your jurisdiction. It has been nothing more then a rubber stamp for YVR management team. Nevertheless, If you should decide not to implement this suggestion to YVR, then one could have high aspiration our airport advisory committee would make the suggestion in their report for this comprehensive change. We will most certainly have to work with are federal MPs in the lower mainland to modify the YVR lease agreement which the Dept. Of Transport has jurisdiction.

If nothing else, I want to plant the seed in your minds for this type of citizens committee to be appointed and controlled by the cities. it should be open to the public and be accountable to all the stake holders which includes all citizens in the lower mainland. Along with the cities appointed representatives, there would be employees from YVR, Nav Canada and the Department of Transport to represent their interest.

As I have mentioned in my previous reports, there is no accountability or transparency under the control of YVR. In my first report to city council eight years ago, I mentioned this type of committee was implemented in Seattle. The United States as well as other countries are far ahead of us on implementing such committees, which operated at arms length of the airports.

A couple of names that come to my mind for this committee are: Regional Airport Committee On Noise and Environment or Regional Airport Advisory Task force on Environment and Noise. Call it what ever you want, but it has to be at arms length of YVR and reporting of these meetings should be done by the committee and not by YVR, who likes to put a spin on everything and claim privacy when it is convenient for them.

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The only way we will be successful is by joining forces with other cities in the lower mainland and involving our federal MPs to lobby for our behalf. I know for sure Mr. Cummins is on our side on this issue. I have e-mailed Alice Wong on January 28 giving her a brief history as to the difficulties with YVR. To date she has not responded to my e-mail. By now I should have expected some kind of response, but maybe she is still getting her feet wet, so I'm prepared to give her more time to make a response.

In closing, I hope you will consider my second comment either as an addendum to staffs report or wait to see if the advisory committee makes the suggestion in their report. Let's face it. This is the right and most favourable time to join forces with other cities to meet with YVR, Nav Canada and Dept. Transport. If you don't seize the opportunity now, or in June, then we have loss our best chance to deal with these federal organizations, that have a pompous attitude towards all the citizens who live under the flight path in several municipalities.

Doug Louth