



Date: October 18, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: Patrick O'Donnell, 4th District Councilmember
Tonia Reyes Uranga, 7th District Councilmember
Rae Gabelich, 8th District Councilmember

Subject: Late Night Flight Penalties

Recommended Action

Request the City Attorney and City Manager to review and report back to the Council in 45 days on:

- The current fine structure for late night flights at Long Beach Airport;
- The recent history of late night violations; and
- The City's "bridge time" policy.

Background

The LGB Noise Ordinance, which is the result of a 1995 consent decree and subsequent council action, makes Long Beach Airport (LGB) one of the strictest noise-controlled airports in the United States. LGB is located in the middle of an urban area and our community is struggling to find the balance between the protection of neighborhood quality of life and the impacts of operating a regional airport with an increasing passenger load.

The Noise Ordinance – and corresponding "noise bucket" – currently allows for 41 commercial flights and 25 commuter flights during the hours of 7am and 10pm. However, flights that arrive one hour after or before the curfew are considered to be "bridge time" flights. City policy and Council direction as to how these flights will be subject to the noise ordinance appears to be subjective and may need clarity.

The community continually makes demands for the City to increase the penalties for violations so as to discourage late night flights. Many believe that the current fines do not discourage or prevent late night violations and that a heftier penalty would be more effective.