



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Judge Grants Temporary Restraining Order Against City's Jet Ban

BY BRIAN BLAND, FOSP BOARD MEMBER AND FOSP AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEMBER

LOS ANGELES (FOSP) – A federal judge has blocked the City of Santa Monica from enforcing its ban on the fastest kinds of jets using Santa Monica Airport (SMO), at least temporarily.

The ban, unanimously approved by the City Council, was to have gone into effect on April 24. The Federal Aviation Administration filed a cease-and-desist order against the city and went to federal court to ask for a temporary restraining order. Judge George Wu declined to issue the order without a hearing, which was held April 28.

Wu said he wasn't sure whether or not he had the authority to judge the merits of the city's case, and instead made his ruling to temporarily block the ban based on his interpretation of the legal procedures involved. He agreed to be briefed further on the case, so the battle will resume in his downtown Los Angeles federal court

on May 15 after both sides file additional written arguments.

On the procedural question, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said the city's agreement with the FAA does give the city power to exclude unsafe categories of planes. The FAA insists the agreement gives the FAA the power to decide what's safe and that operating C and D aircraft at SMO is safe, despite the fact the airport does not offer the safety requirements ordinarily required for C and D operations. In other words, the FAA reserves the power to grant exceptions to its own rules.

Despite granting the FAA request for the temporary restraining order, Wu did ask several questions about the merits of the city's ban, e.g., how many Class C and D aircraft have been involved in overruns at SMO. The answer, so far, is none. But City Attorney Marsha Moutrie

pointed out that other overruns at the airport, involving smaller, slower, planes, would've been disasters had they involved the faster, larger, jets. Wu replied that those jets are generally regarded as safer, in part because they're usually piloted by professionals.

Wu also used the canard that "category C and D planes have used the airport safely for years." That statement ignores the fact that the number of the bigger, faster, jets has increased exponentially since the FAA first allowed them in. Now there are nearly 19,000 such operations at SMO every year, and that figure may grow.

Any argument on merits of the ban must also consider the effect an accident would have at the uniquely situated SMO. Also relevant: accidents such as the 2006 runway overrun in Carlsbad, California, that killed four people and the 2007 over-

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FOSP Annual Meeting Save the Date! — June 14th

Celebrate your neighborhood with Friends of Sunset Park! The FOSP Annual General Membership Meeting arrives June 14th – your chance to renew your membership, elect FOSP Board members, and talk to city officials. Our City Manager, P. Lamont Ewell, will be the keynote speaker. Plus, you can enjoy entertainment, treats, and free door prizes donated by neighborhood businesses!

So bring your friends, neighbors, and curiosity to Ocean Park Blvd. at 14th, in the Fellowship Hall of Mt. Olive Church.

Mark the date: Saturday, June 14th, 1:30 to 4 PM. Find out how you are represented by FOSP, discover ways you can support the neighborhood, and hear the latest about what's happening in your home town!

Meeting about Smoking In Multi-family Properties

The City Council has requested that the Consumer Protection Unit gather input from the community on possible legislation to address the problem of second-hand smoke exposure by residents in multi-family buildings.

At its April 8 meeting, the Council heard testimony from a number of local tenants who have suffered health and other problems due to exposure to second-hand smoke from other tenants in their buildings.

You are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss these issues on May 29 at 2 PM at the Santa Monica Main Library auditorium at 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, you can give staff any input you would like to share, in writing, by Friday, May 23, to Office of the City Attorney, 1685 Main Street, #310, Santa Monica, CA 90401, Attn: Paula Rockenstein. Here are some approaches to second-hand smoke in multi-family housing that have been used, or are being considered, by other California cities:

1. Prohibit smoking in all common areas, with designated smoking areas
2. Prohibit smoking on balconies and patios
3. Require owners to designate a certain percentage of their units as smoke-free, or phase in such requirements over time, grandfathering in all existing smoking residents.
4. Prohibit smoking in all newly-occupied units, grandfathering in all existing smoking residents.
5. Require building owners to designate and disclose to prospective tenants/buyers which units are smoke-free and which ones allow smoking.
6. Require owners to disclose the building's smoking policy.
7. Declare second-hand smoke a nuisance under the law.

Jet Ban, Continued from page 1

run in Conway, Arkansas, that killed two people. Both accidents involved runways of about the same size as at SMO and planes like those targeted by the ban. Also in 2007, a jet in that category overran a Santa Barbara Airport runway, but no one was hurt because that facility has runway safety extensions, which SMO does not. All three of these accidents would've had even more tragic consequences had they occurred at SMO due to the proximity of two busy streets and hundreds of homes.

Moutrie cited the opinion of former National Transportation Safety Board chief Jim Hall that the C and D aircraft should be banned from SMO because they present a "serious risk of injury and death," given the airport's configuration: runway length, lack of safety overrun areas and the proximity of homes.

A federal attorney representing the FAA argued that the ban would do "irreparable harm" to the jet operators and aircraft-sup-

Dialing 9-1-1

BY CHIEF JIM HONE, SANTA MONICA FIRE DEPARTMENT

All "hard wired" phones (land lines) in Santa Monica that dial 9-1-1 go directly to the Santa Monica Police Department Dispatch Center. The location where a 9-1-1 call is answered is known as the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

As soon as the Santa Monica Police Department dispatcher understands that the caller is requesting medical or fire resources, the call is transferred to the Fire Department Dispatch center. This is the same process that was used when the Santa Monica Fire Department had its one dispatcher in our own dispatch center, but now the call is transferred to the Los Angeles City Fire Department rather than the Santa Monica Fire Department. The Los Angeles City Fire Department dispatches the appropriate Santa Monica Fire Department resource(s).

Presently, wireless (cell phone) 9-1-1 calls are routed to the California Highway Patrol and then transferred to the Police Department, causing a delay for the caller to speak with a dispatcher. Under a new system, most wireless 9-1-1 calls made within the City of Santa Monica will route directly to the Santa Monica Police Department. The system uses GPS technology embedded in all wireless phones.

State law mandates that calls made from the area of a freeway be routed to the California Highway Patrol and, as a result, some calls will still be routed to the CHP and then transferred to the Police Department if necessary. Testing of the system is currently underway. Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint/Nextel and Metro PCS are prepared to begin routing their calls directly to the Police Department immediately following successful testing. AT&T has opted to exercise their right under FAA law to delay deployment until February 2009.

In the very near future, the City will begin a public outreach campaign with more information about the recent upgrades.

port businesses. Moutrie said the real irreparable harm would be suffered by residents if a jet should overrun SMO's runway and plow through dozens of homes. Moutrie told the judge the city is being told, by implication, that the only way to show its ban has merit is to wait for the inevitable day when a Class C or D jet does overrun the runway. The judge's response was that the legal battle with the FAA will go on despite his restraining order. On that, he was absolutely correct.

The FAA's insistence on going to court rather than respecting public safety has now cost the city its Airport Commission chairman. Mark Young has resigned because he works for the U.S. Attorney's office, which creates a conflict of interest now that the office is the arm of the government being used to fight the city's jet ban. We're sorry to lose Mr. Young, who's done a great job.

Four FOSP board members attended the court hearing.

Sunset Park Supporters

Thank you to the following local businesses and individuals who donated door prizes for our 2007 Annual Meeting. They are an important part of what makes Sunset Park a great place to live, work, and play.

Artful Handcrafted Gifts	Lares Restaurant	Spitfire Grill
Café Bolivar	Laura's Nails	Starbucks Coffee
Chavez Art	Marty's Liquor	Studio E
Edelweiss Flower Boutique	Master Imports Force Auto	Sunset Grill
Engler Bros. Motor Parts	Maya Shoe Repair	Superfast Copying & Binding Systems
Executive Cleaners	Merrihew's Sunset Gardens	Teddie Tillett
First Federal Bank	Mrs. Winston's Green Grocery	The Counter
Gilbert's El Indio Restaurant	Ocean Park Café	The Cut Salon
Hair Brains	Ocean Park Pizza	Yum Yum Donuts
Il Forno Restaurant	SMC Theatre Department	Zabie's
Kramer Sporting Goods	Santa Monica Theatre Guild	
Kulturas Books	Seventh Muse	

Santa Monica College Update

SMC student Brandon Wise has been named winner of the College Photographer of the Year competition by the Press Photographers Association of Greater Los Angeles. The honor came with a \$1,000 award and a new Nikon digital camera.

SMC Executive Vice President Randal Lawson—a 29-year veteran of the college who rose from music professor to second-highest ranking senior administrator—has been named 2007–08 recipient of the Carter Doran Leader-

ship award. The award is given by the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers.

SMC art professor Marc Trujillo has been named a 2008 Guggenheim Fellow. Past fellows have included Ansel Adams, Vladimir Nabokov, Aaron Copland, and Marth Graham.

UCLA Chancellor Dr. Gene Block will be the speaker at SMC's 78th commencement exercises on June 10th. About 600 students are expected to receive their

Associate of Arts degrees.

The college is planning on building a new Math and Science building. The new Student Services Building will be located on the Pico side of the campus, with three levels of underground parking and vehicular access from Pico Blvd. and city alleys. The college is also working with the Big Blue Bus and the city to design a Transit Center on Pico that would have space for four buses to pull in (out of traffic lanes).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Monday, May 12th, 7 PM

Santa Monica College – Board of Trustees
Main Campus, Business Building, Rm. 117
Agenda: www.smc.edu

Tuesday, May 13th, 5:45 PM

City Council
City Hall 2nd floor
Agenda: <http://www.smgov.net/cityclerk/council/agendas/>

Saturday, May 17th, 10 AM to 12:30 PM

Santa Monica Neighborhood Council
Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St.
All city residents are invited to discuss citywide and neighborhood issues.
www.sm4residents.net

Saturday, May 17th, 3 PM

Santa Monica Citywide Reads presents
"An Afternoon with Jim Lynch"
SMC Pavilion & Gym
1900 Pico Blvd.
<http://SantaMonicaCitywideReads.blogspot.com>

Wednesday, May 21st, 7 PM

Plannng Commission
City Hall 2nd floor
Agenda: <http://www.smgov.net/planning/planningcomm/planningagendas.htm>

Tuesday, May 27th, 5:45 PM

City Council (see May 13th for details)

Thursday, May 29th, 2 PM

Community meeting to discuss
"Smoking in Multi-family Properties"
Santa Monica Main Library Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd. (parking entrance on 7th Street)

Monday, June 2nd, 7:30 PM

Airport Commission
Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street
Agenda: <http://www.smgov.net/airport/>

Saturday, June 14th, 1:30 to 4 PM

FOSP Annual General Membership Meeting
Guest speaker: City Manager P. Lamont Ewell
Mt. Olive Church, 14th & Ocean Park Blvd.

Local Traffic Initiative Draws Huge Support

An initiative to fight overdevelopment and traffic congestion in Santa Monica is likely headed for the November ballot after the residents' group that is sponsoring the measure announced on April 23rd they had collected almost twice as many signatures as required.

Proponents of the Residents Initiative to Fight Traffic, known as RIFT, collected 10,295 signatures of Santa Monica voters which they submitted to City Hall. By law, RIFT needed the signatures of 10% of registered Santa Monica voters, or 5,800 signatures, to ensure the initiative is on the local ballot in November.

"We found that residents in overwhelming numbers agree with us that development and traffic in our city is 'out of control,'" said Diana Gordon, co-chair of the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City which is sponsoring RIFT. "Santa Monicans are tired of commercial overdevelopment and ever worsening traffic."

Equally important is the number of volunteers passionate about the issue who joined the Coalition and spearheaded the petition drive. "Over 100 residents gathered signatures as part of an historic movement to give residents the right to control and pace future development and related traffic impacts in Santa Monica."

Proponents and traffic experts say that commercial development is a prime source of Santa Monica's growing traffic congestion. RIFT would place an annual limit of 75,000 square-feet on new commercial development for the next 15 years. Schools, hospitals, religious buildings and other community-serving development would be exempt.

Like Santa Monica, a growing number of Southern California communities are putting traffic congestion and overdevelopment limits before local voters. Newport Beach, Thousand Oaks, Oxnard and Redondo Beach are either working on traffic-related initiatives or have enacted them in recent years.

An Afternoon with Jim Lynch

The Santa Monica Public Library is pleased to present "An Afternoon with Jim Lynch," author of the 2008 Santa Monica Citywide Reads selection, *The Highest Tide*. This event will take place Saturday, May 17, 2008, at 3 PM in Santa Monica College's Pavilion & Gym, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Santa Monica Citywide Reads is a community reading program, now celebrating its sixth year, which encourages everyone who lives, works in, or is visiting Santa Monica to read and discuss the same book, as well as participate in complementary special events. The 2008 selection is Jim Lynch's *The Highest Tide*, a touching coming-of-age novel, set in a beachside community and starring a charming thirteen-year-old protagonist trying to find his way through the world.

At "An Afternoon with Jim Lynch," the author of this heartwarming novel will read excerpts and discuss his book. A book signing will follow, and on site book sales will be provided.

Admission for this "all ages" event is free. Seating is plentiful and on a first arrival basis. Parking in all Santa Monica College parking structures is free the day of event.

For more information on this and other library programs, contact the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600; or visit the Library's web site at www.smpl.org. Also, be sure to visit the Citywide Reads blog for more information at <http://SantaMonicaCitywideReads.blogspot.com>.

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JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Today's date _____

I will help with:

- Airport Committee
 Annual Meeting
 Crime/Safety/Graffiti
 Emergency Preparedness
 Membership Committee
 Neighborhood Mailings
 Planning and Development
 Santa Monica College
 Traffic, Parking, Pedestrian Safety
 Website/Internet

Membership Dues:

- \$30 Regular Household Dues
 \$50 or \$100 for Sponsor
 \$10 Minimum Household Dues
 Additional Donation

(Please check):

- New Renewal

*Please make check payable to
 "Friends of Sunset Park"
 and mail to P.O.Box 5823,
 Santa Monica, CA 90405*

My greatest concerns are _____

*** If you received this newsletter in the mail, the mailing label will have the date when you last paid dues.**