



DATE: May, 17, 2023

FROM: Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council

RE: A Rejection of the Bonseph Helinet Lease proposal

To: Councilman Bob Blumenfield

19040 Vanowen St

Reseda, CA 91335

REQUEST to Open Council File

SUBJECT A Rejection of the Bonseph Helinet Lease proposal

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

The Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council (WHWCNC) requests that you open a Council File to palace rejection support on the Bonseph Helinet lease proposal.

On December 12, 2022 the WHWCNC approved an action and subsequently submitted a CIS in support of CF22-1489. This motion calls for, in part, Los Angeles World Airport's (LAWA) transparency, accountability, community engagement and a detailed description of LAWA's compliance or non-compliance of the 2005 VNY Master/Airport Plan in respect to redevelopment projects at VNY . The second paragraph of this motion is dedicated to LAWA's failure to brief groups, such as the VNY Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), on Requests for Proposals (RFP) and contract awards for major airport projects. The Bonseph Helinet lease was specifically referred to: " Just a few weeks ago, a significant proposal for modernization of helicopter facilities at VNY was sent to the Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) for their approval without any action or discussion at the CAC".

At its regular meeting on April 19, 2023, the WHWCNC was presented with a Bonseph Helinet powerpoint exposing the proposal to be a Jets for Charter expansion, a fact that LAWA failed to disclose in its 12/01/2022 report to BOAC. The powerpoint also highlighted plans and imagery from the proposal depicting an expansion of Hangar space that may be too egregious for property boundaries. The proposed Hangar space may fail to accommodate the City's long term goals of upgrading the airport's power capacity and modernizing the entire property to reduce toxic APU emissions from ground operations.

The City Council recently adopted three motions (22-1125, 22-1127, and 22-1489) dedicated, in part, to investigating and addressing the: (a) increased jet charter activity at VNY airport, (b)

redevelopment deals and (c) “gray area” in FAA policy that facilitated the influx of now unsustainable living conditions including but not limited to: commerce (most especially businesses that derive income from outdoor activities), quality of life and well-being of dwellers, and shared use of our natural spaces.

For reasons including those stated above, we support calling for the rejection of the Bonseph Helinet proposal that will introduce more jets for charter activity to a premises that currently

houses none, and that may prohibit critically needed modernization to the premises for 25 years (IE: the life of the lease).

Since the proposal does not satisfy the needs of the City as is, we agree that it is not appropriate to permit Bonseph Helinet to secure contractual rights to the Waterman lot. A rejection is warranted and will allow the City to solicit and explore its options. Helinet currently operates on the premises, and will continue to operate uninterrupted upon any rejection of this lease

THEREFORE, we ask that you take a stand and actively encourage City Council to exercise the City’s right to reject any proposal that does not inarguably meet the City’s long-term goals, and that is not in the best interest of the City or its citizens.

In conclusion, adopted Motion 22-1127 mandates the Department of City Planning create a Specific Airport Plan for VNY, in collaboration with LAWA and with the community’s engagement. Adopted 22-1489 references VNY CAC’s 11/01/2022 motion requesting a moratorium on development projects at VNY, and its text depicts concern over LAWA’s lack of transparency, compliance with the 2005 Master/Airport Plan, and its recent actions WHEREAS, we would request that you engage your colleagues who joined with you in moving 22-1489, to again join forces to palace a CF file for moratorium on VNY aviation redevelopment until the Dept of City Planning and LAWA have complied with 22-1127. Since VNY airport is self-sustaining, there is no fiscal or operational consequence to passing a moratorium until time and resources can be dedicated to responsibly developing and adopting the mandated Specific Airport Plan.

The WHWCNC at its regular General Board meeting of April 19, 2023 approved this statement by of **Yeas 10, Nays 2, Abstain 2, Ineligible 3. Motion Passed.**

Best regards,

Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council



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