

**AIRCRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT TASK FORCE
ST. PETE-CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
(April & July 2024)**

Since the last report, the Aircraft Noise Abatement Task Force (Task Force, NATF) met on two separate occasions (April 17 and July 17, 2024). The purpose of this report is to briefly outline initiatives taken by the Task Force and St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (Airport, PIE) to address public concerns regarding aircraft noise impacts on surrounding communities.

NOISE ABATEMENT COMPLIANCE REPORT

The *Noise Abatement Compliance Report* for the months of January through June 2024 was reviewed and reported to the Task Force. The overall compliance rate reflected an average of 94%.

The number of flights during the Voluntary Quiet Window (VQW) for the 1st Quarter ranged between 7-13%, averaging at 10% for the quarter. Some reasons for flights during the VQW this quarter were: scheduled flights, local weather, storms across the country, and fog causing diversions. There were several high traffic aviation events in March including the St. Pete Grand Prix, the Valspar Golf Tournament, and the MacDill Air Show, the latter resulted in FAA Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR), causing flights to fly straight-in over Safety Harbor and did not allow the use of NAPs.

The number of flights during the Voluntary Quiet Window (VQW) for the 2nd Quarter ranged between 9-15%, averaging at 12% for the quarter. Some reasons for flights during the VQW this quarter were: scheduled flights, local weather, and severe summer storms across the country. There were multiple days/nights with thunderstorms causing aircraft to divert, fly the ILS to Runway 18, and arrive/depart during the VQW.

NOISE COMPLAINT SUMMARY

There were 654 complaints received during the 1st Quarter, with 610 complaints coming from one household in Safety Harbor, representing 93% of the complaints this quarter. The top three cities submitting complaints were Safety Harbor (613/94%), Oldsmar (15/2%), and Palm Harbor (7/1%); with the top three reasons for complaints being low flying, excessive noise, and flying over home.

There were 613 complaints received during the 2nd Quarter, with 591 complaints coming from one household, representing 96% of the complaints this quarter. The top three cities submitting complaints were Safety Harbor (591/96%), Oldsmar (7/1%), Clearwater/Feather Sound/Palm Harbor (3 complaints each/0.5% each or 1.5% with 3

cities combined); with the top three reasons for complaints being low flying, excessive noise, and flying over home.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

FOXAR departure waypoint shift west - Publication Date 5/17/2024

Mr. Sprague shared with the Task Force that the “community driven” project of shifting the FOXAR waypoint 1,954 feet to the west on the BAYPO ONE Departure from PIE was originally scheduled to be published on March 21, 2024; the publication date was delayed by FAA to May 17, 2024. This will keep aircraft over the mouth of Tampa Bay when departing as opposed to hugging the Oldsmar coastline.

Tampa/St. Pete Airports Full Workgroup Meeting

Mr. Sprague attended this workgroup meeting with FAA Air Traffic Controllers (local and national), FAA headquarter representatives, airlines, and consultants regarding what changes are upcoming to procedures impacting Tampa/St. Pete Airports.

U.S. Coast Guard fleet update

LCDR Timothy Nicolet, U.S. Coast Guard, provided an update on their fleet and the transition from the C-130H's to the C-27's. The last C-130H is scheduled to depart from PIE in September 2024.

Task Force Resolution

Mr. Sprague discussed updating the Noise Abatement Task Force Resolution, which was adopted on August 20, 2002, over 20 years ago. The County Attorney's Office recommends reviewing resolutions for relevant updates every few years. The main reason we are considering an update to the Resolution is due to the number of appointed members compared to advisory members on the Task Force. All meetings will continue to be open to the public, reports will continue to be posted to the website quarterly, and all records are subject to public record request.

PIE Terminal Expansion & Parking Garage

The PIE Terminal Expansion will include updating an aging building with aging facility infrastructure, which includes a consolidated TSA checkpoint, increasing hold room capacity, increasing bathroom capacity, increasing concessions, and the addition of two domestic gates.

A Parking Garage is needed to meet current passenger capacity. We are very close to vehicle capacity during many holidays, and during weekends in the spring and summer. During our busiest times over the last 5 years, we have encouraged passengers to get a ride to the Airport, so they do not arrive to find no parking available.