

**AIRCRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING
ST. PETE-CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MINUTES (JULY - DECEMBER 2024)
January 29, 2025**

The Aircraft Noise Abatement Working Group (Working Group) met on January 29, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the Airport Conference Room #234. The purpose of this report is to briefly outline initiatives taken by the Working Group and St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (Airport, PIE) to address public concerns regarding aircraft noise impacts on surrounding communities.

The following individuals were present:

Present:

Don Casey, Clearwater/Del Oro Groves Resident
LCDR Steve Grey, U.S. Coast Guard
H.D. Holland, Feather Sound Resident
Shane Jackson, FAA Community Engagement Officer (via teleconference)
Tom Jewsbury, Airport Director
Erin Johnson, Airport Operations Manager
Barbara Markley, Pinellas Park Resident
Steven Otterness, Allegiant Air
John Padavich, Safety Harbor Resident
Steven Santamaria, Airport Operations
Cheryl Soszka, Airport Administration
Mark Sprague, Deputy Director, Operations and Facilities
Deen Walker, Sheltair
Cody Ward, County Attorney's Office
Jeff Yost, Allegiant Air (via teleconference)

Absent:

Jason Driskill, U.S. Army
Andrew Knapp, Oldsmar Resident and City Council Member
Steve Ochsner, Feather Sound Resident
Hank Samuel, Palm Harbor Resident
Anibal Velazquez, Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Control PIE

Guests in Attendance:

Lou Claudio, Safety Harbor resident

AGENDA

1. Introduction & Opening Comments
2. 2025 Meeting Dates
3. 2025 Working Group Members
4. Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2024
5. Quarterly Noise Compliance Report & Complaint Summary
6. Flights within Voluntary Quiet Window
7. Action Items
 - Review of Resolution 24-95
 - Review of 2024
 - Allegiant Boeing 737s
 - Flight Schedule
8. Citizen's Comments
9. Adjournment

INTRODUCTION, MEETING DATES, AND MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Sprague welcomed those present to the Working Group Meeting, including Shane Jackson, FAA Community Engagement Officer, and Jeff Yost, Allegiant Air, via conference call. Mr. Sprague reviewed the 2025 Working Group Meeting Dates, Members, and minutes from July 17, 2024.

NOISE ABATEMENT COMPLIANCE REPORT

The *Noise Abatement Compliance Reports* for the months of July through December 2024 were 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 3rd Quarter ranged between 6 - 18%, averaging at 13% for the quarter. Some reasons for flights during the VQW this quarter were: scheduled flights, local weather, thunderstorms across the country, Tropical Storm Debby, Hurricane Helene, and Air Traffic Control ground stops.

The number of flights during the Voluntary Quiet Window (VQW) for the 4th Quarter ranged between 9 - 12%, averaging at 11% for the quarter. Some reasons for flights during the VQW this quarter were: scheduled flights, local weather, Hurricane Milton, thunderstorms across the country, and fog causing diversions.

For 2024, the number of flights during the VQW averaged at 12%. This is up 1% compared to 2023.

NOISE COMPLAINT SUMMARY

There were 768 complaints received during the 3rd Quarter, with 748 complaints from one household in Safety Harbor, representing 97% of the complaints this quarter. The top three cities submitting complaints were Safety Harbor, Oldsmar, and Del Oro Groves subdivision in Clearwater; with the top three reasons for complaints low flying, being excessive noise, and flying over home.

There were 380 complaints received during the 4th Quarter, with 358 complaints coming from one household in Safety Harbor, representing 94% of the complaints this quarter. The top three cities submitting complaints were Safety Harbor, Clearwater, and Oldsmar; with the top three reasons for complaints being late night or early morning, excessive noise, and low flying.

For the year of 2024, there were 2,415 complaints received. This is 184 less complaints than were received in 2023, with 209 additional Allegiant commercial flights scheduled. There were complaints received from 48 different households. The top three cities submitting complaints were Safety Harbor (2,313 complaints representing 96% of annual complaints), Oldsmar (33 complaints representing 1.3% of annual complaints), and Clearwater (21 complaints representing 1% of annual complaints).

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Mr. Sprague went over the 2024 Year in Review, which is attached to the minutes.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of Resolution 24-95

Mr. Sprague discussed the updated Resolution 24-95 changing the Noise Abatement Task Force to a Noise Abatement Working Group. There are two main reasons for the update: the number of appointed members compared to advisory members and the Working Group will not be bound by the Sunshine Law; therefore, members can have conversation with one another without calling a meeting. All meetings will continue to be open to the public and reports will be posted to PIE's website.

Allegiant Boeing 737s

Allegiant will be obtaining 3 new Boeing 737 Max's that will be based at PIE. There will be two delivered in February and 1 delivered in March.

Flight Schedules

Mr. Sprague advised that we will see an increase in flights with spring break and summer following closely behind.

NATF MEMBERS AND CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Public Comments were received by:
Lou Claudio, Safety Harbor resident

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

2024 Action Items Year in Review

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, FAA representatives, 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.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 24- 95

**RESOLUTION SUPERSEDING AND REPLACING
RESOLUTION 02-151 REGARDING THE AIRCRAFT
NOISE ABATEMENT TASK FORCE FOR THE ST. PETE-
CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

WHEREAS, there remains aircraft noise inquiries and concerns in Pinellas County arising from departing and arriving flights at St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (“Airport”); and

WHEREAS, federal law prohibits noise and access restrictions by the Federal Aviation Act of 1958; and

WHEREAS, the responsible federal agency, the Federal Aviation Administration, continues to work with airports to improve its means of understanding and reducing the effects of aircraft noise exposure; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to receive input from the communities impacted by aircraft noise as well as input from representatives of the aviation industry and government; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2002, the Board of County Commissioners instructed the County Administrator to develop an Aircraft Noise Abatement Task Force (“Task Force”) to assess concerns and educate the community on traffic patterns, flight routes and arrival/departure procedures, and to explore alternative methods of reducing aircraft noise and impacts on residential neighborhoods surrounding the airport; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has been instrumental in helping Airport staff and the County Administrator develop the Fly Friendly program and alternative

approaches to Airport operation that have ameliorated noise issues; and

WHEREAS, given the numerosity of members, logistics and attendance of meetings, replacing the task force with a smaller, but similarly representative working group will allow more effective and more focused recommendations to the County Administrator.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County Florida, that:

Section 1. Scope.

The Airport noise Task Force is hereby dissolved and replaced with an airport noise abatement working group (“Working Group”) which is hereby created as set forth herein to continue efforts to address aircraft noise issues and make aircraft noise issue recommendations to the County Administrator.

Section 2. Membership.

The Working Group will consist of nine (9) members, be appointed by the County Administrator, and will consist of a mix of aviation industry representatives, government officials, and local citizens as deemed appropriate by the County Administrator.

Section 3. Scheduled Meetings.

The Working Group will meet twice per year and shall be staffed by a member of the Airport Director's Office.

Section 4. Meeting Minutes.

The County Administrator will submit the meeting minutes to the Board of County Commissioners detailing the working group's activities and recommendations.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and shall supersede and replace Resolution 02-151.

In a regular meeting duly assembled on the 17th day of December, 2024, Commissioner Scott offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and upon roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Peters, Scott, Eggers, Flowers, Latvala, Nowicki, and Scherer.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: None.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
By: Cody J. Ward
Office of the County Attorney