AIRCRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING
ST. PETE–CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MINUTES (January – June 2026)
July 22, 2026

The Aircraft Noise Abatement Working Group (Working Group) met on July 22, 2026, 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:
H.D. Holland, Feather Sound Resident
Erin Johnson, Airport Operations Manager
Barbara Markley, Pinellas Park Resident
Cathy Minteer, Oldsmar Resident
Steven Otterness, Allegiant Air
Cheryl Soszka, Airport Administration
Mark Sprague, Airport Director
David Strojny, U. S. Coast Guard
Anibal Velazquez, Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Control PIE
Deen Walker, Sheltair
Cody Ward, County Attorney's Office
Shirley Westfall, Airport Administration
Jeff Yost, Allegiant Air (tele-conference)

Absent:
Don Casey, Clearwater/Del Oro Groves Resident
Steve Ochsner, Feather Sound Resident
John Padavich, Safety Harbor Resident
Hank Samuel, Palm Harbor Resident

Guests in Attendance:
Lou Claudio, Safety Harbor resident
Mark Minteer, Oldsmar resident

INTRODUCTION AND MEETING DATES

Mr. Sprague welcomed attendees to the semi-annual Noise Abatement Working Group (NAWG) meeting, and introduced Jeff Yost, Allegiant Air, via conference call. Mr. Sprague reviewed the NAWG meeting dates for 2027.

NOISE ABATEMENT COMPLIANCE REPORT & VOLUNTARY QUIET WINDOW

The *Noise Abatement Compliance Reports* for the months of January through June 2026 were reviewed and reported to the Working Group. The overall compliance rate reflected an average of 93%. Some of the issues that created unusual noise included: runways closures due to maintenance and mowing season, medical emergencies, weather, and low visibility (fog).

Mr. Sprague reviewed the number of flights during the Voluntary Quiet Window (VQW) for the first two Quarters, ranging between 11-19%, for an average of 14% for the first half of 2026.

NOISE COMPLAINT SUMMARY

There were 546 complaints received during the 1st Quarter, with 529 complaints from one household in Safety Harbor, representing 97% of the complaints for this quarter. The top two cities submitting complaints were Safety Harbor (529) and Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg (5 each); while the top three reasons for complaints include late night or early morning, flying over home, and excessive noise.

There were 579 complaints received during the 2nd Quarter, with 563 complaints coming from one household in Safety Harbor, representing 97% of the complaints this quarter. The top three reasons for complaints include late night and early morning, excessive noise, and flying over home.

ACTION ITEMS

RNAV Visual RWY 36 Update

Mr. Sprague reported that the new noise abatement procedure went into effect on May 12, 2026.

Allegiant PIE Regional Chief Pilot Steven Otterness stated that he has flown the new approach and noted that it involves a learning curve and is significantly different from the previous procedure. He added that Tampa International Airport (TPA) has also had to make adjustments in assigning the new procedure.

Mr. Otterness explained that the procedure allows aircraft to remain at a higher altitude while flying over the Gulf of Mexico, followed by an idle descent to Runway 36, subject to wind and weather conditions. He noted that the approach has reduced fuel consumption and aircraft noise.

Regarding Geofencing, Mr. Sprague commended Operations Manager Erin Johnson for her work on the initiative. Ms. Johnson then discussed the locations and boundaries.

Attendees noted noticeable improvements in aircraft noise levels.

BermudAir

Mr. Sprague reported that BermudAir will begin operating several flights per week in December 2026, serving three international destinations. He noted that the airline will use smaller, quieter aircraft.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sprague provided a brief overview of upcoming airport improvement projects, including the construction of a parking garage and terminal upgrades designed to modernize the aging facility and bring it to compliance with current standards.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

No public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM. The next NAWG meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2027.