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3 Chairman Phil Mendelson

  
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

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7 Councilmember Anita Bonds

  
Councilmember Jack Evans

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11 Councilmember Elissa Silverman

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16 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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20 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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25 To declare the sense of the Council that noise from aircrafts in and around the District originating  
26 from and concluding at Reagan National Airport is a severe nuisance to District residents  
27 and, in many cases, at levels disruptive to conversation, of sleep, and to local school  
28 classrooms.

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30 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
31 resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Declaring Airplane Noise in the District to be  
32 at Disruptive Decibels Resolution of 2019”.

33 Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

34 (1) In fiscal year 2017, the District government initiated a study to investigate noise  
35 originating from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) air traffic operations and to  
36 identify ways to minimize the noise affecting District residents in a manner acceptable to the  
37 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards and criteria.

38 (2) The study was conducted in two phases. The Phase 1 effort involved  
39 background research, field noise monitoring, data analysis, noise-environment modeling, and

1 development of preliminary findings. The Phase 2 effort incorporated various supplemental noise  
2 metrics suggested by the U.S. Department of Defense Noise Working Group.

3 (3) The two-year project concluded in September 2018 and a report has been  
4 prepared and finalized. The DCA Airplane Noise Assessment Project determined that airplane  
5 noise is disruptive to a significant number of District residents. In particular, the noise is disruptive  
6 to speech occurring outdoors, the sleep of 12-33% of northwest residences, and learning occurring  
7 in the classrooms of multiple schools in the District.

8 (4) The DCA Airplane Noise Assessment Project recommended seven Air Traffic  
9 Control alternatives that could be employed by the FAA to reduce the effect of noise on the  
10 District.

11 (5) The Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA) currently sponsors  
12 a collaborative “Community Noise Working Group” (CWG) comprising FAA, industry, and  
13 surrounding community representatives.

14 (6) Of the numerous recommendations for change made by CWG, the FAA has  
15 ignored nearly all of them.

16 (7) Airplane noise is a disruptive force in the District.

17 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council to:

18 (1) Declare that noise from aircrafts in and around the District originating from and  
19 concluding at Reagan National Airport is a severe nuisance to District residents and, in many cases,  
20 at levels disrupting conversation, sleep, and school.

21 (2) Call upon the Administrator of the FAA to heed the recommendations of the  
22 DCA Airplane Noise Assessment Project and the CWG to institute meaningful relief to District  
23 residents;

1           (3) Call upon Congress to perform meaningful oversight requiring the FAA to  
2 address the recommendations put forth by the DCA Airplane Noise Assessment Project and the  
3 CWG;

4           (4) Call on the United States Secretary of Transportation to require the FAA to  
5 address the disruptive noise levels created by airplanes arriving and departing from DCA.

6           Sec. 4. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor,  
7 the District's Delegate to the United States House of Representatives, the Chair and Ranking  
8 Member of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and  
9 Infrastructure, the Chair and Ranking Member of the United States Senate Committee on  
10 Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the  
11 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and the United States Secretary of  
12 Transportation.

13           Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
14 the District of Columbia Register.