



# NEWS RELEASE

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Thursday, February 16, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FAA Sets Neighborhood Meeting To Get Feedback From Residents About Proposed Flight Path Change

The Federal Aviation Administration has scheduled an upcoming neighborhood meeting to get citizens' comments about its proposed flight path change that would route air traffic over the Las Vegas area. The meeting has been set for **6 p.m. on Monday, February 27, at the Veterans Memorial Leisure Services Center located at 101 North Pavilion Center Drive.**

The city of Las Vegas has been working with FAA officials to set up a neighborhood meeting during the extended comment period, which expires at midnight on Tuesday, March 14. City officials assisted the FAA in setting up the neighborhood meeting, including providing the facility and setup at the Veteran's Memorial Leisure Services Center.

City officials, including Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman and Ward 2 Councilman Steve Wolfson, are scheduled to attend the meeting. Staff from the Clark County Department of Aviation has also been invited to participate in the meeting.

"We appreciate the FAA's willingness to schedule a neighborhood meeting to give residents another opportunity to learn more about the proposal and to have their voices heard," said Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman. "To me, this is a potential safety issue that needs be more thoroughly reviewed, because the proposed path would take planes over a very heavy populated area."

Councilman Wolfson, whose ward would be impacted by the proposed change to the flight path, added, "Public outreach is so important and the more information our residents receive the better."

In addition to attending the meeting, residents can make their comments known to the FAA by mail, fax or e-mail to:

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All written comments must be submitted to later than **midnight on Tuesday, March 14, 2006.** (((MORE)))



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The FAA is looking at creating a "right turn" for departing flights. Flights would leave McCarran International Airport heading west, turning north over Interstate 215, then turning right again heading east over the Lake Mead Boulevard corridor.

The Las Vegas City Council is opposed to the FAA's proposed plan because it would impact an area of the city that has a population density more than triple that of the current route in unincorporated Clark County. The possible dispersal pattern of the proposed route would also affect seven hospitals, including the Las Vegas Medical District and University Medical Center, while the current route over the southwest valley only affects one hospital. The proposed route also disproportionately impacts the minority residents of the city, who comprise more than 31.3 percent of the population of the affected neighborhoods, according to a resolution adopted by the City Council in December 2005.

City staff, along with members of an informal panel of concerned citizens serving as a fact finding resource supporting the council and staff on technical and operational issues related to air traffic, also recently had an opportunity to meet with McCarran International Airport officials to discuss the proposed plan to better understand how it would affect the airport.

The comment period was set to expire on January 13. At the end of December, the city sent a letter to FAA officials asking for an extension to allow time for the city, the FAA and the affected community to meet together to look at alternatives. The extension was granted by the FAA.

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