

**RESOLUTION NO. 1189**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING THE CITY'S OPPOSITION TO ANY RECOMMENDATION OF BROAD-SCALE EXPANSION OF THE TACOMA NARROWS AIRPORT**

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**WHEREAS**, both the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and the Washington State Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission (CACCC) are conducting studies on the potential for the expansion of commercial aviation in western Washington State; and

**WHEREAS**, both the PSRC and the CACC have identified the Tacoma Narrows Airport as a location with potential for expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, expansion of the Tacoma Narrows Airport will lead to increased traffic problems to the already highly congested SR 16 corridor. The increase in traffic will likely overwhelm the infrastructure capacity of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, SR 16, 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Olympic Drive; and

**WHEREAS**, increased commercial air traffic will lead to intolerable noise and air pollution for residents in and around the City of Gig Harbor. Such pollution would destroy the City's charm and appeal as working waterfront community and would decimate the City's tourism and real estate industries. The harbor would become an extended airline approach runway path for airplanes at a terrible cost to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, expanded runway length at Tacoma Narrows Airport may result in the need to condemn public and privately-owned land; and

**WHEREAS**, Pierce County, in its capacity as the sponsor of the airport, has expressed no interest in pursuing expansion of the Tacoma Narrows Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has identified several limitations of the Tacoma Narrows Airport's suitability for expansion including runway length, acreage availability, traffic congestion, strong community opposition, and the natural Puget Sound barrier to access;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The City Council, with support by the Mayor, hereby adopts the recitals expressed above as Findings of Fact in support of this Resolution. The City Council and Mayor hereby makes known their opposition to any broad-scale expansion, or recommendation of expansion, of the Tacoma Narrows Airport based on these Findings of Fact. Broad-scale expansion is defined as any expansion that includes extending the length of the existing 5,000 foot runway at the airport.

Section 2. The City Council hereby directs the Mayor to prepare a letter stating the City's opposition to any broad-scale expansion, or recommendation of expansion, of the Tacoma Narrows based on the Findings of Fact. The letter should be delivered to the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Washington State Commercial Aviation Coordinating Committee, the City's State and Federal representatives, the Pierce County Council and any other governing bodies, organizations, and individuals that the Mayor deems appropriate.

Section 3. The Mayor is hereby directed to reach out to the City's State and Federal representatives and request that they submit comment letters on the City's behalf to the PSRC and the CACC.

Section 4. The Mayor, as a delegate to the PSRC General Assembly, is hereby directed to engage directly with the PSRC and its President to convey the City's opposition to expansion based on the Findings of Fact.

Section 5. The Mayor, City Administrator and councilmembers are hereby authorized and encouraged to engage with governing bodies, organizations, and individuals to convey a message of opposition to expansion of the airport consistent with the Findings of Fact on behalf of the City.

**RESOLVED** by the City Council this 26th day of October, 2020.

APPROVED:

  
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Kit Kuhn, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

  
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Molly Towslee, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 10/13/18  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 10/26/18  
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