

Deputation to the Mayor's Executive Council

September 24, 2013

From Allan Rivers, Co-Chair of York Quay Neighbourhood Association[YQNA]

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Allan Rivers and I am one of the co chairs of the York Quay Neighbourhood Association.

As a former principal I would like the executive council to consider two areas of concern. There are many more reasons why YQNA are not in agreement with jets at the Island Airport, but time does not permit. The two areas are safety and health. I am convinced that few people in the city of Toronto realize that there is a school located at the foot of Bathurst and Queens Quay. It is adjacent to the airport, which generates hundreds of vehicle trips every day. That is the street the children cross to go to the Harbourfront School and the busy Community Centre. Adding to traffic are the trucks going to the tunnel construction 24 hours a day, so heavy traffic at this corner is a very serious concern. Rows of taxis are lined up in the summer and winter with engines idling. Parents and children are in a state of peril when crossing streets in this area. Members of YQNA and other volunteers have given of their time to help the children cross the street safely. I encourage all city councilors to visit this area. It is interesting to note that the city is now considering a proposal to ban trucks in school zones because of the tragic death of the North York teenager on the first day of school this year. The City in addition has reported that if the peak number of flights per hour was increased infrastructure improvements would be required. Sixteen flights per hour generates approximately 750 cars on Eireann Quay during the busiest hour. If jets are added and the number of flights remains at 16 traffic volume on Eireann Quay could increase 20% to approximately 900 cars in a one hour time period.. Based on this data I ask council to please consider the safety of these children at the Harbourfront School and the volume of traffic they have to deal with each day.

I have attended the City meetings on the airport expansion. I have been told by Chris Dunn that there is no other airport in the world that we can compare ours to. The closest are 4,6 and 11 km from the city core.

The harbourfront is heavily populated. The Board of Health started a few days ago to research health issues related to jet noise and pollution on the Waterfront area . It is hard to fathom that the city is considering jets at the Island airport in such a short time frame. How can the Board of Health determine the risk to residents' health so quickly? I think we have to ask ourselves why is Mr Deluce asking the City to make such important decision in such a short time frame? Is an increase in passenger load and longer flights really more important than the safety and well being of the children and residents of the Harbourfront?

Mr. Mayor I know you and your brother speak of your wonderful relationship with the City of Chicago. For those of you who have visited Chicago the harbourfront is a

showpiece for the city and very important to their economy. Mayor Daley took a bulldozer to the downtown airport and closed it permanently. I have friends and relatives who fly Porter and they tell me of the wonderful service. Lets' maintain the level of service we have now with Turbo Props flying out of Billy Bishop Airport. Mr. Mayor, YQNA is not asking you to close down the airport, we are asking you to say no to jets because of our strong belief that jets and a heavily populated area do not mix. Allowing the introduction of jets and a runway expansion would simply be an open door to jets from many airlines, a doubling of flights and extended flight hours. In yesterday's Metro newspaper Matt Elliot writes: " Not allowing jets may seem like an arbitrary line to draw, but maybe it's also a line that makes it clear what we value about our waterfront going forward: the people, not the planes."

I thank you for your time today.

Allan Rivers  
YQNA