

February 8, 2018

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Tom Lind

Federal Aviation Administration
Air Traffic Organization (ATO)
Western Service Center
Attn: PHX Community Involvement
1601 Lind Ave. SW
Renton, WA 98057

Also emailed to
9-ATO-WSA-PhoenixCommunityInvolvement@faa.gov.

September 18th, 2014 flight path changes for Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport westerly departure routes are adversely affecting many of our children's abilities to sleep and to learn. Their sports, recreation and outdoor classes such as science, art and physical education have been curtailed. Airplanes flying low over sometimes fragile historic homes, neighborhoods and schools interrupt conversations. They also make attention, concentration, and understanding more difficult – interrupting learning. Teachers have to raise their voices, simplify what they are saying, and repeat without losing content.

The Phoenix Elementary School District is the oldest school district in Maricopa County. In 1871, the district began serving Phoenix's earliest settlements which were located along the edge of the Salt River flood plain. 100 years later, in the 1970s when communities in the affected area were primarily Black and Hispanic, decisions were made that planes leaving Sky Harbor would pass over the edge of the Salt River plain. The noise contours were so loud that many families sold their properties and ended up being relocated many miles away. They were uprooted from their communities, churches and schools. The historic communities that were completely or partially lost included; the Golden Gate Barrio, El Campito, Cuatro Milpas, Ann Ott, and parts of the Eastlake Park and Green Valley communities.

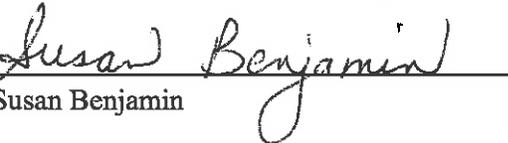
We have spent heavily over the years to respond to airport changes. Our schools that continued to serve families living beneath the pre September 2014 routes have been rebuilt or remodeled to minimize learning disruptions. But when the routes were changed in 2014, aircraft noise heavily impacted schools which had no defenses against it. Some of these students are members of the same families that were moved when the Salt River flight path was developed. These are real people living and working downtown, residing mostly in Phoenix's remaining historic homes. They don't want to move. Their property values have been negatively affected. Many, like Phoenix #1, cannot afford to remodel to combat the increased noise.

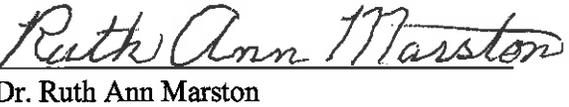
We ask that you continue to use the Salt River flight path over the mostly vacant land already razed because of airport noise. Please return permanently to pre 2014 westerly departure routes so we can rebuild these communities with confidence that all of our school district and downtown Phoenix will be livable in the future.

Sincerely,


Daniil Gunitskiy


Lynne Alby


Susan Benjamin


Dr. Ruth Ann Marston


Dr. Louisa Stark