AIRPORT

Concerned About Noise

Most residents of the neighborhoods near the airport are black, but Marshall noted that blacks have no representation on the Airport Commission of Forsyth County.

Rodney King, who lives on Shaw Road to the east of the runway, said that there was less activity at the airport when he moved in eight years ago. Now, he said, he hears loud jet engines between 5:30 and 6:30 in the mornings. He attributes the noise to engines taking off and landing in the early morning hours.

"I feel like my whole house is about to shake off the foundation," he said. "It was variable, but now it is the same thing every day. These are probably bigger planes, and it is real bad. I'm down in the woods. If you walk in the woods, you can look over to where they are working."

Pace got the contract to perform maintenance checks on Continental's 757s in late 2002. Charles Creech, the president of Pace, said that although the company does do heavy maintenance, it does not do full-chore engine overhauls of the sort that would make a lot of noise.

On the other hand, Creech said, people may be hearing the planes taking off and landing in the early morning hours.

"If they have heard this in the last four or five weeks, they did hear us coming and going early in the morning," he said. "March madness is a good time for us."

Planes would leave early to arrive in time to take basketball teams to their destinations.

Some of the Continental planes do come in the early morning — such as 3 or 4 in the morning — he said. County Commissioner Ted Kaplan said he hopes that the airport can become an economic engine that will help the county as well as the people who live near it.

"There are always going to be people who complain about noise at an airport, but as much as I protest to say, there has been an airport here since 1949," Kaplan said.

But the airport won't ignore the noise complaints, said Kaplan, who is the county's representative on the county airport commission.

"We are going to try to alleviate their concerns," he said. "The airport commission is going to request as part of a continuing study of our future a noise reduction study by the FAA."

And at the site of recent construction, he said, the airport will try to plant trees to create a buffer to lessen the noise.

Larry Scantlin, the airport director, said that the airport will try to do what it can to make things easier for its neighbors.

Brian Burke, the Winston-Salem City Council member whose ward includes the airport, said that the airport should try to be a better neighbor.

"We have been in that area and made investments in our homes," Burke said. "If they are going to bring more planes in here flying close to those houses and working on those jets and making noise, they need to buy up those houses."

Winston-Salem Journal

Saturday, April 11, 2009
www.winstonjournal.com

75 Cents

Winston-Salem Journal

Sound and Fury

By Wesley Young

Some residents of the neighborhoods near the airport are concerned about the noise from the planes. A number of them have complained about the noise, but not all residents feel the same way.

"I do not hear much noise," said a resident of one of the neighborhoods near the airport. "I hear some noise, but it is not too bad."

But others feel differently. "I hear the noise all the time," said another resident. "It is really disturbing."}

The airport has been home to the pandemic planes for the past few years. They have been used to transport passengers to other parts of the country.

But the pandemic planes are not the only ones that fly over the airport. Other planes also fly over the airport, including commercial planes and private jets.

The noise from these planes can be heard throughout the area. Residents have complained about the noise, but the airport has not done much to address the problem.

"We have tried to address the noise problem," said an airport spokesperson. "But it is difficult to do anything about it."