

Memorandum

To: Mayor Lott and City Council
From: Jessie Baker, City Manager
Date: May 15, 2019
Re: Winooski and Burlington International Airport Briefing

The City of Winooski, the Burlington International Airport (Airport), and the VT Air National Guard (VTANG) have worked together for years on the relationships between the organizations and specifically on the arrivals of the F-35s. As we prepare to receive the updated Noise Exposure Map at the end of the month, I wanted to provide some historical context.

The Burlington International Airport is wholly located in the City of South Burlington and owned and operated solely by the City of Burlington. Mayor Weinberger and the Burlington City Council have decision making authority over the operations at the Airport. VTANG are tenants at the Airport.

Resolution History

Starting in 2013 the Council has adopted the following resolutions regarding the Airport. They are included in this packet.

- **July 12, 2013:** Resolution on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Beddown of the F-35A at the Burlington Air National Guard Station
- **November 7, 2016:** Resolution on the Burlington International Airport Noise Mitigation and Engagement Plan
- **July 17, 2017:** 1st Joint Resolution on Regional Governance at the Burlington International Airport
- **August 8, 2017:** 2nd Joint Resolution on Regional Governance at the Burlington International Airport
- **April 16, 2018:** Resolution on the Basing of the F-35s at the Burlington International Airport

While several of the Resolutions have resulted in communications from or conversations with officials at the local, state, or federal level, none have resulted in substantive change



Voting and Legal History

On Town Meeting Day 2015, Winooski residents approved a referendum opposing the federal decision to base the F-35s at the Airport and asked the City to join a lawsuit seeking to prevent the planes from coming to Vermont. In 2015 and 2016, the City spend approximately \$12,000 in legal fees associated with this lawsuit. In August 2016 the lawsuit was dismissed clearing the way for the F-35s to be located at the Airport.

Noise Compatibility Program and Noise Exposure Map

Since the decision was finalized, the City has partnered with the Airport and the VTANG to represent Winooski residents' voices at the table. We have participated in the Noise Compatibility Program (NCP) planning and advocated to have the Noise Exposure Map updated with the F-35 data as part of this NCP process. The NCP process includes grant applications that the City of Burlington (as the owner of the Airport) will submit to the FAA for funding to mitigate the sound impact from the Airport.

At the end of May, the Airport will release the updated Noise Exposure Map with the F-35 data included. We have advocated for them to host a Winooski-specific meeting on May 30th at the O'Brien Community Center – the day after the announcement meeting will be held at the Airport. We have issued the attached press release and set of Frequently Asked Questions. Additionally, the Airport has set up [this webpage](#) that includes information about the Sound Mitigation Program including some FAQs.

