

Supplement

Comments Received After Packet Publication

Dr. Merri Sanchez
2255 Renaissance Dr
Longmont, CO 80503
713-502-9854
merrisanchez@rocketmail.com

To: Longmont City Council

I am writing this letter to you to express my strongest opposition to the approval of the Modern West-1 and Modern West-2 building and usage permitting.

While I have only lived in Longmont for 5 years, I am an active private pilot, and an Aerospace engineer. I retired as a senior executive from both NASA and the U.S. Air Force (as the Chief Scientist of the Air Force Space Command). One of the reasons I chose to move to Longmont was access to the airport, and I for one love hearing and watching the aircraft that fly over my house. I also co-use hangar space at the airport. My love for aviation started as a child watching aircraft at our local southwest Colorado airport. This influenced me to my career choice in aerospace. Throughout my flying career I have sought out small local airports to live nearby and to stop at when traveling across the country in private aircraft.

During my work for NASA and the Air Force safety has always been a strong focus. Allowing buildings, and critically – residential buildings – in the direct flight path of an airport is one of the most unsafe things I have seen considered. I have also been told there may be a child care facility in the building. While all pilots strive to ensure their aircraft are in good working order, engine failures do occur. The buildings under consideration are in the direct flight path of an aircraft having to make an emergency landing. Not only would the occupants of the aircraft not survive the impact – neither would the residents of the building. Engine failures do occur, and airports are always built with an area at the end of each runway to protect for those failures. Even the Erie airport has had an aircraft land in the extended runway corridor recently. Luckily they had a protected area with no buildings that allowed a safe emergency landing. The Modern West -1 and -2 buildings are also a landing hazard. An aircraft flying a landing approach will be only literally a few feet about the roof of the buildings. Any navigation instrument or pilot error could result in an impact.

In addition to safety issues – every resident of those buildings will be exposed to the noise of aircraft at full power on takeoff – and the phone lines will light up with complaints. As I read about airport noise complaints at other airports I always wonder why people that don't like aviation move that close to an airport.

I am mystified as to why the City Council would knowingly expose its residents to these safety and noise issues. And wonder how you are going to obtain valid releases of liability from the owners of the building and the future residents.

As a citizen of Longmont, I am concerned about the largest financial liability the City will be undertaking in lawsuits from the new residents of the building for noise and God-forbid, if there is an accident, the ousted residents of the airport when it is shut down, and the FAA lawsuits and FAA pay backs.

Airports are the heart blood of America. From the first establishment of airports across the country for mail delivery to the now vibrant businesses (and tax basis) that exist at the airports. In addition, with the

recent wildfires you should be keenly aware of how vital local airports are to fire fighting and staging for disaster response.

Local airports are a source of revenue for the city. There is a tremendous shortage of hangars in the county and nearby counties. The City could allow additional hangars to be built, bringing in additional revenue. There is land available to extend the runway. If the runway were extended (with FAA funding) other aircraft would be able to land here, and there would be interest in establishing corporate presences and additional aviation related businesses. There is also an excellent opportunity to establish an airport restaurant that will not only bring pilots to the airport, but would also provide a needed restaurant in that area of town for the already established residences. The Greeley airport is a great example of this – many pilots stop there at breakfast and lunch time just for a place to stop while they are out flying, and when I stop there, at least half of the customers are locals.

Local airports are also critical in the inspiration of the next generation. As an Aerospace Engineer I have spent significant time and effort doing science, technology, and mathematics outreach to students. I am currently serving on the board of directors of an educational foundation focused on Aerospace and Automotive Engineering that provides free content and virtual class room sessions to small rural schools that do not have the funding or faculty to provide in their districts. Aviation is one of the mainstays that we use to teach science and physics and engage students to become interested in STEM careers. And this is critical to the U.S. as we are falling behind in STEM college graduates. Even the local Longmont schools recognize this with aviation classes and build an airplane projects. As an example, I expect to see large numbers of students of all age groups at the upcoming Longmont airshow in September.

I do not want to down play the need for truly affordable housing. But from the schematics I have seen I do not believe that these particular housing units will be truly affordable by the standards of working-class residents at near minimum wage. And there are many other land locations available in the surrounding area. This includes a large area of land (visually about the same size or larger) with a for sale sign right next to the Modern West 1 and 2 proposed plots.

I am unlikely to be able to attend the Council meeting on August 13 where I understand this topic will be discussed, but I want to go on the record as opposing this development and request that you disapprove the Modern West -1 and -2 developments.



Dr. Merri J Sanchez

From: [Vladimir Diky](#)
To: [Jennifer Hewett-Apperson](#); [Tyler Bartlett](#)
Subject: [External] ModernWest 2 hearing
Date: Sunday, August 11, 2024 8:15:07 PM

Dear Jennifer and the City of Longmont,

The Longmont Vance Brand airport (KLMO) was opened in 1945 and used to be one of the safest General Aviation airports in the country due to the open space extending its runway in both directions. I witnessed 3 crash landings at KLMO since 2020, 2 of which happened outside the airport fence. No fatalities happened because the open space allowed the pilots to avoid collisions.

Takeoff is the most dangerous part of the flight, and if an engine fails, the aircraft at low altitude must usually land right where it is or crash. The emergency landing may not be precise. Construction around many other airports gives little chance for the pilots and passengers to survive in such situations. Even the most experienced pilots who make no mistakes may crash and die if the safety area around the runway is insufficient:

<https://www.ainonline.com/aviation-news/business-aviation/2023-10-02/air-safety-institutes-mcspadden-true-giant-dies-aircraft>

Not only pilots and passengers are at risk; people on the ground are also in danger if construction aggressively surrounds runways. A prominent case is the recent crash in Florida where a kid was killed in a car hit by a falling aircraft unable to find a spot for an emergency landing:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/03/16/florida-plane-crash-ring-doorbell-camera-capture-crash-into-suv/4713884001/>

Please consider this information in addition to the FAA letter and other voices when taking the responsibility for your decision.

Respectfully,

Vladimir Diky,
private pilot.
409 Graham Way
Erie CO

From: [Marcia Martin](#)
To: 1047q@cox.net; [Jennifer Hewett-Apperson](#); [Dawn Quintana](#)
Subject: Re: [External] City Council & Mayor Contact Form [#3240]
Date: Monday, August 12, 2024 2:48:58 PM

Sorry, this communication is inappropriate at this time. It must never presented to Council at the public hearing tomorrow. I am forwarding it to the appropriate staff members.

Regards,

Marcia Martin

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: City of Longmont, Colorado <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 3:49:57 PM
To: City Council & Mayor <City_Council_Mayor@longmontcolorado.gov>; CityofLongmont <CityofLongmont@longmontcolorado.gov>; Sandi Seader <Sandra.Seader@longmontcolorado.gov>; Erica Mares Moncada <erica.maresmoncada@longmontcolorado.gov>
Subject: [External] City Council & Mayor Contact Form [#3240]

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Name | Brock Taras |
| Address | <input type="checkbox"/> 1929 E Cliff Swallow Tr. Green Valley United States |
| Email | 1047q@cox.net |
| Confirm Email | 1047q@cox.net |
| Home Phone Number | (303) 981-4110 |
| Type of Comment. | Concern |
| Comment is regarding | City Council |
| Comment Area | <p>This new building development that you, the city council, has approved near the Longmont airport is completely ridiculous and should never been approved. This is because new homes, new buildings right under the approach end of the airport runway is dangerous, stupid, and should never been approved. I believe the FAA told you this also. Please change your decision on this matter. You will make a serious mistake to approve this!!</p> <p>BROCK TARAS, HANGAR OWNER</p> |
