

This is my response to the City of Ormond Beach City Manager after viewing a document to the City Commission about the Airport. (attached)

Since before 2009 when a Noise Abatement Committee was organized by the City staff and the current City Manager, Joyce Shanahan, nothing has really changed in the results of the City of Ormond Beach trying to get voluntary cooperation from neighboring flight schools by using a simple path to avoid flying over nearby residential areas. Instructors and students continue to ignore these paths. Especially when departing to the east and when they turn north there is an area 1.5 miles across to fly over a swamp and the river with no houses. The airport runways are much smaller, but they can see and find it with no problem.

The only relief that provides peace and quiet to the residents of Tomoka Estates and neighboring developments is: rain and strong winds; or closed air space like during the Daytona 500 this year when the Thunderbirds were practicing.

In your letter to commissioners, etc., a comment advised on how they should respond to complaints. This suggestion involves residents of Volusia County and the City of O.B. to take on the task of trying to decrease noise from flight schools. My close neighbors and my wife and I live in unincorporated Volusia County and don't have much say in airport operations. That was obvious when the noise abatement committee was formed, no one living in the unincorporated area was on the committee. None of this is necessary if the schools just followed the suggested paths.

Two schools have continued for years and years ignoring the voluntary path, Phoenix East Aviation and Embry Riddle University. They have carte blanche to fly wherever and whenever and as much as they want. In my view the City gets nothing from these two schools. I don't even believe they even purchase fuel at the airport.

Obviously, the City of Ormond Beach wants nothing to do with future complaints even though there is mention of a new tracking system possibly being implemented in the future. This should have been done twenty years ago. The City has made no effort to obtain noise monitors. I do remember the airport manager using software that makes calculated, not actual readings of how loud it is when I am in my yard and can't talk to people 20 feet from me because of the airplane noise. These calculations can be manipulated to whatever an airport manager wants them to be because they are not actual readings.

And what are the results of a new tracking system going to produce? More asking schools to cooperate? Obviously, that hasn't worked. The data that will be collected will be meaningless, only a tool for the City of Ormond Beach to say they are trying. All it will show is X number of complaints, where the complainant's residence is and date/times. Will the new system require a computer entry by the complainant for each aircraft flying over our homes or will it be a time span? In the past I have made detailed complaints with the airport manager (and later a group email listing) and when I saw a recent complaint listing for 2025 requested by a person living in Ormond Lakes, George Palmer, a majority of my

complaints were missing, some appear on the spreadsheet as one complaint instead of sometimes 90 flights over our neighborhood and houses. Do I have any expectations a new reporting system will be accurate. No.

Shouldn't it be the responsibility of the City of Ormond Beach to initiate legislative action because the airport is owned by the City? Mentions are made to contact legislators and federal representatives but again, pushing this off on residents. The City should be providing the proper people to contact, including the FAA department overseeing the airport. In the past I have made many complaints to the FAA about noise from flight schools at the O.B. Airport and the response was to contact the airport manager. So it's like a yo-yo on who gets the complaint. The FAA didn't want to handle it.

If I decide to write a letter to some representative, I don't know who yet, I will mention about the noise and then how the airport has been in the red for probably about 10 years for a million dollars (give or take, depending on what city department money is moved around from).

The FAA requires the airport to be self-sufficient but it really isn't. If it wasn't for FDOT funding, most of the airport repairs and improvements and the rental of airport property to private businesses would be deep in the red. I will also mention how the airport management failed when the golf course and restaurant closed. The City found the taxes were not paid by the golf course/restaurant manager and owed the Volusia County property appraiser approximately a half million dollars. I know this is in dispute, but it happened. One day I saw in the paper a "condo" sold on the airport property for approximately \$900,000 in the Ormond Observer newspaper. How can anyone buy airport property and not rent it? And while contacting representatives I will also need to mention the recent termination of the airport manager. A few details have been released, and it makes one wonder what has been going for the past ten or so years he was manager and how it stretched out that long. A comment I heard was a past master plan was "make believe" And the FAA denied the "master plan" At a O.B. Aviation Board meeting there was mention of Tomlinson Aviation pouring a very large concrete pad and there was concern the appropriate environmental permits were not obtained. There is nothing in the future to replace or do with the closed golf course and related buildings.

The airport has nothing to draw an attraction to. Sports field to the north, I-95 to the west, homes to the south and east. We've been to Flagler airport many times and they have events there. People go to the Landing Strip (formerly HJjackers) restaurant to dine and watch the planes taxing and taking off. Sometimes they even have small air show events there. Ormond Beach Airport, nothing in 30 years.

And let's not forget about pollution for aircraft exhaust. The City should be concerned for all residents' safety from the possibility of long term effects but I have never heard any concern except once hearing that the topic is of no concern. I have filed a EPA complaint in 2025 but have not received a response.

I conclude that my wife and I will eventually have to give in and wave a white flag at the schools flying over our house. God Bless America, but not the two flight schools that use the airport for training purposes with no courtesy to residents in nearby developments.

The letter gives the impression that any commissioners or other city staff will have a scripted answer that people should be referred to and to not make any other comments. The letter mentions sharing complaint data with individual flight schools. Do any of the people recently involved in complaints really believe the schools will review it and respond. They probably will get the correspondence and stick it in a folder or a wastepaper basket.

I think the new airport manager and the city manager composed an informative letter for the City Manager to distribute. My predictions for the future include that Joyce Manager will step down as City Manager and Brian Rademacher may eventually become the new City Manager and then a search will start for yet another airport manager. I am so glad we don't pay taxes to the City of Ormond Beach.

Norman Echelberry

1032 Shockney Dr. (Tomoka Estates, unincorporated Volusia County)

Ormond Beach Fl 32174 (my mailing address, we do not live in the City)

norman.echelberry.fl@gmail.com (new email address replacing normanechelberry@cfl.rr.com)

my personal noise abatement web page for the Ormond Beach Airport:

www.ormondbeach.in

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