



MAYOR MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Mayor@onioncity.com

DEPUTY MAYOR SALLY TIPSON

CITY OF WINOOSKI

CITY COUNCIL

27 WEST ALLEN STREET
WINOOSKI, VERMONT 05404

(802) 655-6410
(802) 655-6414 (fax)

KATHERINE R. DECARREAU
CITY MANAGER

COUNCILOR JOHN LITTLE

COUNCILOR MEGAN MOIR

COUNCILOR SARAH ROBINSON

Resolution

Re: Comment on the US Air Force Proposed F35 A Bed Down Environmental Impact Statement

Whereas the United States Air Force is considering changing the current fighter jets at the Burlington International Airport from the F 16 to the F 35A in the next decade as the useful life of the F16s will come to an end, and;

Whereas the City of Winooski is directly impacted by the operations of the Vermont Air National Guard Base and as such wishes to respond to a request for comments on the Environmental Impact Statement issued by the United States Air Force, and;

Whereas the City of Winooski wishes to support the Vermont Air National Guard Base located at the Burlington International Airport, and;

Whereas Winooski recognizes the important and courageous mission of the Air Guard including critical missions after September 11, 2001, and;

Whereas Winooski recognizes the valuable impact of the Air Guard Base on the local economy, including one thousand thirty five (1,035) jobs and millions of dollars of local spending annually, and;

Whereas the City of Winooski, the State of Vermont, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and our private partners have invested over \$175 million dollars in revitalizing our downtown which, in turn, has sparked a revitalization of the entire City of Winooski as an attractive place to live and work, leaving open the possibility that property values would decline and the downtown would become less desirable under the conditions outlined in the study, and;

Whereas the required Environmental Impact Statement has been released by the United States Air Force, indicating an increase in noise in Winooski both in maximum volumes during takeoffs and landings and in the average Day Night Level (DNL) resulting in "adverse unavoidable

impacts” to noise levels, which will rise to or above the level that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has determined to be “incompatible” with residential use, and:

Whereas the 65 dB noise contour band in either scenario would encompass more than fifty percent (50%) of our community by the change in operations, disproportionately impacting the City including most of the low income families and people of color identified in the EIS, and;

Whereas it is unclear as to the actual difference in decibel level between the F 16 and the F35A during take offs and landings, leaving serious concern about the potential increase in health risks related to the exposure of residents including those in a nursing home, several senior living complexes, and a school, and;

Whereas the City of Winooski was informed by the Vermont National Guard and by United States Air Force staff in the initial hearings that the noise levels could be mitigated by operational changes,

Now therefore be it resolved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winooski, Vermont as follows:

The City formally requests that the United States Air Force:

1. Review the noise impacts of the F35A on the city of Winooski and clearly identify the potential impact on the economic health of the City of Winooski and the welfare of our citizens given the FAA’s conclusion that living within the 65 db contour is incompatible with residential use, and;
2. Explain why Burlington International Air Base and the Burlington International Airport is considered a preferred location over areas that may have fewer adverse impacts, and;
3. Condition operating procedures for the F35A at the Burlington International Airport to mitigate the impact of increased noise on the city of Winooski in a manner that brings the DNL levels back to their current state and reduces the maximum noise levels of the F35A jets to the current levels of the F16 jets.

The Council formally authorizes the Mayor to meet with the Governor of the State of Vermont, members of the Congressional Delegation, and command staff at the Vermont Air National Guard Base and any other entity capable of impacting this decision to advocate for the City’s position in this matter.

Resolution # 2012 - 1

Dated May 21, 2012

Introduced by _____

Affirmative Vote _____

Negative Vote _____

Adopted 5/21/2012 _____

Rejected _____

Attest _____
City Clerk

Approved Date _____

Mayor