

South Burlington Progressive Party Resolution Requesting cancellation of F-35 and an alternative mission for the Vermont Air National Guard at Burlington Airport.

Whereas, on March 6, 2018, by a vote of 6,482 (55.3%) to 5237 (44.7%), the voters of the City of Burlington approved the following citizen-initiated ballot item:

“Shall we, the voters of the City of Burlington, as part of our strong support for the men and women of the Vermont National Guard, and especially their mission to ‘protect the citizens of Vermont,’ advise the City Council to:

- 1) Request the cancellation of the planned basing of the F-35 at Burlington International Airport, and
- 2) Request instead low-noise-level equipment with a proven high safety record appropriate for a densely populated area?”; and

Whereas, within weeks of that vote the City Councils of Burlington, Winooski, and South Burlington all approved similar resolutions; and

Whereas certain real estate developers and political authorities seek to force F-35 basing on three unwilling cities, creating a crisis for democracy; and

Whereas, the US Air Force Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) highlights abuse of children living in the noise danger zone of the F-35 in a section entitled, "Effects on Learning and Cognitive Abilities:"

- “chronic exposure to high aircraft noise levels can impair learning.”
- “tasks involving central processing and language comprehension (such as reading, attention, problem solving, and memory) appear to be the most affected by noise.”
- “chronic exposure of first- and second-grade children to aircraft noise can result in reading deficits and impaired speech perception;” and

Whereas, the Air Force EIS indicates that learning is impaired in two distinct ways: (a) hitting children with chronic blasting from high-noise military aircraft while the children are at home, outdoors, or in school, and (b) daily classroom interruptions; and

Whereas, the Air Force EIS indicates that the F-35A noise level in ordinary military power is almost as loud as the F-16 with afterburner blasting and that this F-35A noise level is more than 4 times louder than the F-16 in ordinary military power;

Whereas, the Air Force EIS indicates that about 1200 Vermont children in nearly 3000 families will each be hit 2000 times a year by this intense F-35A noise and face learning and cognitive impairment; and

Whereas, the Air Force EIS indicates that seven schools will have classes repeatedly interrupted by F-35A noise, including 3 in [Williston](#), 2 in Winooski, 1 in Colchester, and 1 in South Burlington; and

Whereas, such large scale impairment of learning and cognitive development of children means a crisis of mass government-sponsored child abuse faces citizens of Vermont; and

Whereas, the Vermont Air National Guard mission to ‘protect the citizens of Vermont,’ cannot be achieved with equipment that harms children, so the basing F-35A jets in the most densely populated part of Vermont is incompatible with the Vermont Air Guard mission; and

Whereas, all 50 states plus 4 US territories each has an Air National Guard unit, and many of them have low noise level missions with a proven high safety record appropriate for location in a densely populated area, including both flying and non-flying missions; and

Whereas, the current Vermont Air National Guard is among the smallest in the country, and the US Air Force EIS states that F-35A basing will not increase its membership; and

Whereas, the facts about Air National Guard units in other states mean that Vermont faces no risk of loss of its Air National Guard if the F-35A is cancelled and replaced with a different mission that is compatible with its location amidst densely populated neighborhoods; and

Whereas, the F-35A is designed for carrying the M61 nuclear bomb, so the basing of F-35-A jets will make South Burlington both a base for and a target for nuclear attack, and the basing will make the dense population around the airport into human shields; and

Whereas, the F-35A has less than 4% of the fleet flight hours than the F-16 had when it arrived for basing in Vermont, and less than 0.4% of the fleet flight hours than the F-16 has now; and

Whereas, the F-35A is more dangerous than the F-16 in a crash because its body and stealth coating are flammable military carbon composite materials that the Air Force says will emit highly toxic, carcinogenic, and mutagenic chemicals, fibers, and particulates when set on fire by the burning fuel in a crash.

Therefore, be it resolved that the South Burlington Vermont Progressive Party, as part of our strong support for the men and women of the Vermont National guard, and especially their mission to 'protect the citizens of Vermont':

1) requests the cancellation of the planned basing of the F-35 at Burlington International Airport, and

2) requests instead low-noise-level equipment with a proven high safety record appropriate for a densely populated area."