

(This is a cut and paste of an email sent to the Pierce County Council Members on January 23, 2015 at 11:23 am)

Good Day, Pierce County Council Members;

On the agenda for the upcoming Economic and Infrastructure Committee meeting, Jan 27, at 9:30, you will be discussing proposed Ordinance 2014-108. I believe I have expressed my view of this proposed ordinance. I think it would be very bad policy for the county. The way I read the ordinance, it will essentially remove council oversight of the airports. Although you really do not need to delve into every matter that concerns the Pierce County Airports (Thun Field and Tacoma Narrows Airport), such as garbage collection, and tie-down lease signings, allowing the Director of Public Works and Utilities / the Airports and Ferries Administrator supreme power to execute all matters concerning the airports is a very dangerous abdication of your authority.

In questioning the Airport and Ferry Administrator on the subject, the following facts have appeared.

- Ms Wallace has gone on record several times, including at TFAC meetings past, as well as at the separate meeting held with her in her office on December 18, 2014.
- Apparently the new Airport Rules and Regulations (AR&R) were written by Ms Wallace with limited input from members of the Thun Field Advisory Commission (TFAC) and the Tacoma Narrows Airport Advisory Commission (TNAAC), initiated in 2013.
- At the last TFAC meeting (Jan 15), Ms Wallace was asked to explain the role of the TFAC, in which she basically recited various information from PCC Chapter 2.46, with the purpose quoted: (2.46.020) "The TFAC shall serve in an advisory capacity on matters as authorized by this chapter to the Hearing Examiner, Planning Commission, County Council and Executive on programs and policies regarding the Pierce County Airport/Thun Field. The TFAC shall not perform any final legislative or quasi-judicial decision-making in matters relating to the Pierce County Airport/Thun Field or its environs, but rather shall provide formal advice to the County regarding same."
- At the same TFAC meeting, when discussing in a very limited way what the TFAC and TNAAC role would be under proposed Ordinance 2014-108, Ms Wallace stated that the advisory commissions mentioned in Chapter 5.40 (Exhibit A to Ordinance 2014-108), paragraph 5.40.090, Airport Rules and Regulations, are in fact the TFAC and TNAAC. (This is not stipulated in that paragraph.)
- 5.40.090 states, in part: "AR&R ...may be revised from time to time after review by their respective airport commission at their regularly scheduled commission meeting..."

Those facts lead to these conflicts:

- The first conflict here is that the TFAC and TNAAC have no regulatory authority (2.46.020), Ms Wallace has stated such, and says she does not answer to the commissions. When she was directly asked to reconcile this conflict (at the TFAC meeting), she did not answer the question, rather 'assured us she will work with the TFAC'. She has gone on record, many times that she won't.
- The second conflict is the TFAC was not asked to participate in advising you (Pierce County Council) in this matter; the Airport Administrator seems to have forgotten to place this 'advisory function' in our agenda; I find this rather suspicious and worthy of another look.

Once again, the County Council has many operations to perform to keep the County operating in a safe and effective way, and should not be bothered with day to day airport operations. That said, we are starting to see a track record of Ms Wallace's actions as she will rule the airports, and it is not a pretty sight. This of course includes the ill-conceived notion and poorly executed plan that keeping my customers from driving to my facility is security, when it is actually a locked gate. (As a side note, on your visit to Thun Field last week, Ms Wallace referenced, again erroneously, all the businesses here that are in favor of the gate system. I trust by now that two other businesses I know are against this, Wings West Governor and Mountain Aircraft, have contacted you to correct the record on their behalf.) You will recall this is not the first time Ms Wallace has grossly over-exaggerated this fact, as she did so during the security briefing she gave you last fall. What else has she / can she / will she grossly over exaggerate? Like I said, not a pretty sight.

I once again urge the members of the Economic and Infrastructure Committee to reject Ordinance 2014-108 until it is re-written to include a commission that is answerable to the people (such as an elected airport board), or does not exclude the council in matters that can hurt businesses and damage tax-revenue to the county.

In closing, I had requested information concerning the upcoming committee meeting (Jan 27th); and am awaiting response: Is the public allowed to attend these meetings? (I would think so). And, is there time available for public comment at these meetings? (I would certainly hope so.) Please advise.

Respectfully,

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Employer and Taxpayer of Pierce County