

----- Original Message -----

From: Joyce McDonald jmcdon2@co.pierce.wa.us

To: "'dan.neil@avionics.bz"' dan.neil@avionics.bz

Sent: Tue 06/01/15 10:13 AM

Subject: Fwd: RE: airport security - STUDY SESSION TO TAKE PLACE

Dan,

I wanted to thank you for taking the time to bringing your concerns regarding airport gate access and airport operating rules to my attention.

As an update in response to your concerns and concerns raised by others, Councilmembers will be conducting a site visit/tour of Thun Field airport in January to observe how the gate system operates. During the January visit, I also hope to be able to visit with airport businesses to better understand their experience with the gate system. The Council will also be discussing on the gate access issue to give the airport advisory commissions, airport businesses, and the public an opportunity to address the Council further on the topic. This study session will be useful to me in determining if a resolution regarding gate access should be introduced.

The Council has also decided to conduct additional review of Ordinance 2014-108 and will be sending the proposal back to committee. Similar to your suggestion, the Council may consider an amendment to the ordinance to require that all airport rules be subject to ratification by the Council. Such an approach preserves some of the flexibility that the airport administrator needs to operate the airport on a day to day basis but also ensures that the Council continues to have an oversight role. I anticipate that Ordinance No. 2014-108 will be sent back to committee and discussed at the January 27th @ 9:30 am Economic and Infrastructure Development meeting.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joyce McDonald

Council District 2

Pierce County Council, Exec. Pro Tem

-----Original Message-----

From: dan.neil@avionics.bz [dan.neil@avionics.bz]

Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2014 4:30 PM

To: Joyce McDonald

Subject: airport security - STUDY SESSION TO TAKE PLACE

26 October 2014

Honorable Council Members:

Mrs. McDonald: You represent the district of which I reside, in Sumner.

Mr. Flemming: You represent the district of where my business is located at Tacoma Narrows Airport.

Mr. Roach: You represent the area that includes Pierce County Airport, which I service on occasion.

I have owned and operated Avionics Shop, Inc. at Tacoma Narrows Airport for the last 26 years. Since 1996, I have signed a ground lease here, and have had a building constructed on the land here. Through the good and bad times, we have survived with varying levels of revenues and employee's, we service the electronics on the Sheriff's planes, supply revenue and pay our taxes to Pierce County.

I'm also severely hearing disabled, and thus quite sensitive to what has been happening to me lately. I am unable to talk on the phone, but am able to communicate face-to-face just fine.

I'm writing to you today to ask for help. I am slowly but surely being put out of business by county employee's, that have decided that 24 hour security is now required at both airports. I have been fighting this issue at Tacoma Narrows Airport for the last year. I have a long story to tell regarding this, but for now it's resolved temporarily.

What has brought this to a high point, is the 24 hour security that been put into place at Pierce County Airport. I have been denied access to my customers and vendors. Despite phone calls on my behalf, and many emails..... This is an issue that is not been fixed, even after 2 months. In addition, many of my customers located there are now "Behind the fence", and "drive up" customers have come to a total halt.

I now see firsthand, what is going to happen at Tacoma Narrows Airport. I'm frightened.

County employee's have decided that locking up the airports with 24 hour security is a good idea. I attempted to talk to Deb Wallace at a public meeting about this at Pierce County Airport, and I quote;

“Dan, we are not going to debate this, argue about it, nor is it open for discussion. The decision has been made, and nothing is going to change it. If you feel that you need to take this further, you may take up with the Pierce County Executive, or Pierce County Legal Department.” Unquote.

For many years, we have had security during non-business hours, from 6PM to 7AM. I have no problem with that, and think it's a good idea. But 24 hour security? Just what are we giving up, in the name of security?

Let me put this in perspective.... How would you feel, if this exact same situation was imposed on every business in Pierce County. How would you feel, if you had a business that had a fence around it, and the ONLY access was through the permission of County Employee's? How about a fence around all McDonalds? Taco Bell? Fred Meyer Grocery? Key Bank? All the hospitals?

How about having to be “Beeped in” wherever you go, but depending on the whims of Pierce County Employee's, whether or not you were “allowed in”?

The line of work that we do is quite specialized. We are required to travel to many airports in the area. I have personally seen what has happened to businesses that were “Behind the Fence”. EVERY ONE OF THESE BUSINESSES HAVE GONE OUT OF BUSINESS. At ALL the airports that I travel to, there are currently NO businesses that have survived long term.

Deb Wallace has admitted that there are NO regulations or law requiring 24 hour security, Federal, State, or even County. She has decided by executive fiat, with NO input from those directly involved, that's it's a real good idea.

There are several businesses “Behind the Fence” at both airports. We are being hurt.

We need help.

Thank you.

Dan Neil
Avionics Shop, Inc.
1026 26th Ave NW #A
Gig Harbor WA 98335