

December 8, 2014

Councilmember Dan Roach, Chair
Pierce County Council
930 Tacoma Avenue S, Room 1046
Tacoma, WA 98402

My name is Michael Carver, current Chair of the Thun Field Advisory Commission (TFAC). I am writing to request the Pierce County Council immediately require the airport manager at Thun Field to keep the two vehicle security gates open during normal business hours. This request is being made by a unanimous vote of the TFAC during the November 20 meeting.

In August the Airport and Ferries division had installed two vehicle gates and initiated a 24 hour closure of parts of Thun Field. In September our Vice Chair, Michael Thompson stated these security measures were choking his business, AVSTAR Aircraft, by denying customers access. We were also made aware of the *inequity* this created between competing businesses inside and outside the perimeter. After a lot of heated public comment; we recommended the gates be open during business hours, tabled the issue and made it an agenda item for our November meeting.

On October 28 Councilman Roach received a letter from Brian Zeigler with justification for keeping these *barriers to commerce* closed 24 hours a day. It referenced the 11 security incidents in five years; far lower than the 24 reported year to date in the Sunrise community just north of the Airport. Mr. Zeigler's letter clearly states neither the Federal Aviation Administration nor Transportation Security Administration has a *requirement* to maintain a 24 hour lock-down on airfields. Keeping these gates open during normal business is a reasonable and prudent action meeting the intent of current federal guidelines that will not endanger small businesses.

Our November 20 meeting had a very large public presence in the gallery with the majority of angry citizens speaking out against the heavy handedness of the county's decision to keep these gates closed at all hours. Our customers, business owners, tenants, utility providers and aviators are concerned they are being denied *reasonable access to a publicly owned property* by a solution looking for a problem. To calm the situation we voted unanimously asking you, our elected representatives, to act on this. Personally, I am planning to invite a representative of the Pierce County Sheriff to attend the January meeting, hoping their presence will help maintain a calm and respectful environment until this matter is settled.

We, the members of the TFAC are asking for an immediate resolution '*to keep security fences at Thun Field open from 7 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday with existing restricted access methods used only for weekends and holidays.*' If you have any further questions or concerns please contact me at (*Phone number deleted for Mr. Carver's privacy*).

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Carver, Chairperson
Thun Field Advisory Commission

CC: Councilmember Joyce McDonald
Councilmember Jim McCune
Councilmember Connie Ladenburg
Councilmember Rick Talbert
Councilmember Douglas Richardson
Councilmember Stan Flemming
County Executive Pat McCarthy
TFAC member Michael Thompson
TFAC member J. Keith Kemper
TFAC member Lyle Sindlinger
TFAC member Rex Humphrey
SHAC member Deryl McCarty
SHAC member Jim Downs
Airport and Ferries Administrator Deb Wallace