



2 July 2013

To the Executive Committee (re agenda item # EX 33.18)

I'm writing on behalf of York Quay Neighbourhood Association (YQNA). We are on the Central Waterfront with more than 10,000 residents next to the Island Airport. Some of our condo towers are so close to the flight path that we can see the pilots in the cockpit as they fly by at eye level.

Mr. Mayor, I know you are very concerned with the city finances and balancing the books. The Waterfront is a great economic engine for the City, through property taxes from a large population, sports venues, tourist and cultural attractions -- and that is just the beginning. We are tracking future developments of the Port Lands, East Bayfront, Exhibition Place and Ontario Place. These lands hold enormous future wealth for the City.

We just don't understand why you would want to spend millions for studies, hoping to fly jets through this valuable Waterfront – all at the request of just one person and his private company.

We appreciate the convenience of the Island Airport to some people downtown. On the Waterfront, we pay the price for that through noise, congestion and pollution. But doubling air traffic with jets flying low through this huge urban area can only push residents, businesses and developers away from the Waterfront. It would ruin a valuable asset, Mr. Mayor.

We know you have great admiration for Chicago and its beautiful waterfront. We all know what happened to their island airport -- it was removed to allow Chicago's waterfront to thrive.

In Toronto we now have staff and consultants gearing up to study the fallout from jets on our Waterfront. We ask the Committee, why spend millions of dollars on studying a jet expansion that would ruin the City's most valuable asset? This is one gravy train that should be stopped right now.

Sincerely,  
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