

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH AND THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS: Airport Expansion: RES 245-
2003: Resolution reaffirming the Westchester County Board of
Legislator's commitment to the community to preserve current
limitations on County Airport facilities.

Messrs. Kaplowitz and Rogowsky presented the following Resolution
and moved its adoption, which was declared adopted by a vote of 16-
0. Legislator Mosiello was out for the vote.

RESOLUTION -2003

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WHEREAS, Westchester County Airport is located in the densely populated area where Rye Brook, Harrison, Mt. Pleasant, North Castle and White Plains meet, and that area is the home to a large residential population, heavily populated corporate offices, schools and universities, hotels and conference centers and other facilities, and

WHEREAS, Westchester County Airport is located next to the critical reservoir supplying safe, affordable drinking water to substantial numbers of residents of New York City and Westchester County-totaling close to 9 million people-and this reservoir is an irreplaceable asset to the region, and

WHEREAS, the Westchester County Airport was designed to handle certain general aviation operations and is neither designed nor well suited to significant commercial operations; and

WHEREAS, as the airport proprietor, Westchester County has the right to determine the extent and type of facilities and improvements it will build at the Westchester County Airport while assuring the continued security, safety and efficiency of operations; and

WHEREAS, the Westchester County Board of Legislators for more than a generation has repeatedly expressed its policy that the physical capacity of the Westchester Airport will not be expanded; and

WHEREAS, the Westchester County Board of Legislators has already directed County staff to take all appropriate steps to preserve the right of Westchester County to limit the use of airport pavements to those aircraft whose weight can reasonably be accommodated by those pavements; and

WHEREAS, municipal land use decisions resulting in the significant number of homes, schools, parks and other institutions near the Westchester County Airport have been made for the past decades on the basis of the current physical capacity of Westchester County Airport; and

WHEREAS, any expansion of Westchester County Airport's physical capacity or impact could add both air and water pollution that would negatively affect the reservoir and our region, and

WHEREAS, the Westchester County Board of Legislators recognizes the greatly increased concerns of the people of Westchester regarding their safety and interest in security measures necessary to insure their safety, and

WHEREAS, adjustments may need to be made in the physical arrangement of facilities at the Westchester County Airport to address those safety and security concerns, and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, activities at the County Airport have been significantly reduced, and

WHEREAS, as a result of such reduced activity, there have been fewer negative environmental impacts at the airport and a reduced risk of negative impacts to the watershed and to the drinking water of almost nine million people, and

WHEREAS, the Westchester County Board of Legislators recognizes the environmental benefits of this reduced activity,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators reaffirms its commitment to the community to preserve current limitations on Airport facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policy of the Westchester County Board of Legislators is to limit the development of the Westchester County Airport to its current physical capacity, including the weight-bearing capacities of airport pavements, and the site footprint, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policy of the Westchester County Board of Legislators is and continues to be one of supporting no increase in the total capacity of the Airport's runways, taxiways, ramps, gates, hangars, terminal, motor vehicle parking areas, or access roads in order that we may protect our fragile environment, including the drinking water for almost nine million people, from the noise, air and water pollution that any such expansion would generate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that County staff is directed to ensure that the Federal Aviation Administration, the County's Federal and State Delegations, stakeholders and all other pertinent parties are aware of County Policy so that the intent of this honorable Board may be widely known.

Dated October 7 2003
White Plains, New York

James Meisam
21 D. P.
Vito Pinto
Maurice Pagnoul
Christa G. LaHotta
William J. Ryan
Susan M. Swanson
COMMITTEE
ON ENVIRONMENT
6-11-03

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COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS