

February 23, 2016

To: Mayor Coombs and City Council representatives

From: Norma Figs, citizen and area resident

Subject: concerned about excessive noise from the Otter planes owned and operated by Mile High Skydiving in their for-profit business; need for accountability.

Good evening Mayor Coombs and council:

As a 40 year resident of Longmont I appreciate your support and the opportunity to come before you to express my concerns about excessive noise in our community. We all have taken time from other demands to present our views and objectives to this important issue, one that affects all of us.

Kimberly Gibbs has gone above and beyond in her dedication to secure quiet skies for all of us. I am grateful to her for having the fortitude and the integrity to represent a large segment of Longmont's citizen that are affected by the noise from jump planes operated by Mile Hi Skydiving, a for-profit business that has expressed little concern for the effect the extreme noise created by their planes circling overhead creates, and disturbance to residents to the point of extreme frustration at not being able to stop it.

The excessive noise that these planes create needs to be regulated. The number of daily flights needs to be regulated. The Airport Advisory Board has been remiss in not assuring that Mile Hi comply with rules and regulations that they have largely ignored. Little regulation has been imposed on this company. Many years have gone by where the City of Longmont has come out the loser as far as revenue that should have been regularly assessed and collected from this company has not been enforced.

Ms. Gibbs and many other dedicated and concerned residents took on a heavy burden by going to court to make Mile Hi accountable for its actions. This legal effort was, unfortunately, not successful for many reasons. We are all in their debt. But where does the City – and our representatives – stand with acknowledging and enforcing and collecting what appears to be avoidance on the part of Mile Hi to 'pay their way.'

The previous Airport Manager ignored citizen concerns. He did not respond to our concerns, nor did he do what he was expected to do with regard to revenue due the city from Mile Hi. We have been pretty much ignored through the whole process – for years!

As a taxpayer I want to know how things got this far out of sync, and what is being done to correct the – for lack of a better word – oversight of dollars owed the city and not paid by Mile Hi? How can YOU make the outcome for the future better? What can WE do to make it better?

For years the onus has been on residents to call in or email the Airport Manager when incidents of excessive noise occurred. I've got drawers full of notes with dates and times of visual and

audible disturbance by aircraft belonging to Mile Hi. If I am typical, most folks gave up reporting because it did no good. Nothing came of the complaints; we felt we weren't being heard. That is not fair to us. Nor is it fair to those folks who put forth money to pay for attorneys to represent ALL OF US!

My request to you – the people we voted for to represent us and our concerns – is to please do a better job of regulating this company and demand of them compliance of the rules and regulations, and create better guidelines to restrict noise – and enforce those guidelines! Make Mile Hi ACCOUNTABLE! Make them RESPONSIBLE for their actions.

Thank you for listening. Thank you for what you do.

Norma Figgs

File created 3/6/2016 from a copy of Ms. Figg's prepared statement.
(Highlights, and minor format changes have been added by aiREFORM)