

(This is a copy and paste of an e-mail sent to the Council members on January 14, 2015)

From: Michael E. Thompson [avstarair@att.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 4:21 PM
To: 'droach@co.pierce.wa.us'; 'Jim McCune'; 'Joyce McDonald'; 'Hugh Taylor';
'brian.ziegler@co.pierce.wa.us'; 'Deb Wallace'
Cc: 'rick.talbert@co.pierce.wa.us'; 'drichar@co.pierce.wa.us'; 'Derek Young'
Subject: Thun Field Airport tour

To Mr. Roach, Mr. McCune, Mr. Taylor, and Ms. McDonald, thank you for visiting Thun Field today. Also, Mr. Ziegler, it was a pleasure to finally make your acquaintance.

To the council members that were not able to attend, I invite you to drop by Thun Field, as well as Tacoma Narrows Airport to fully understand these valuable assets the county has.

To recap our discussion, I have been in business over 20 years at Thun Field. A couple of years ago I chose to make the investment and purchase the section of building we met in today. I feel that if I had known that my customers and potential customers would be locked out from visiting me at will, I may have reconsidered that investment. One point I feel I may not have emphasized enough is the unfair competition advantage the center-field businesses have over mine.

Besides the impact this has on gaining business, I believe the gate call box system leaves much to be desired, including the points discussed of it not always operational, business interruption during a critical maintenance phase of my work, and as Ms. McDonald also quickly pointed out, we have no way of really knowing who is at the gate.

Additionally, this security has impacts upon the county. Direct loss of tax revenue if I lose a sale to another airport is one; if I lose many, I could lose my investment due to the poor decision of 24-hour security. Also, we discussed the people that want to visit the airport and airplane folks, and that can help influence a future aviator. I have said it before, and will say it again: There is not one pilot or aircraft owner that would not take 10, 15, or 20 minutes to talk with an aspiring aviator; there is no real way to quantify the good-will and potential revenue (to the county) of a conversation such as that.

In closing, I thank you again for the effort you made in visiting this great asset of ours. I trust that in your discussions about the gates you will consider the above information, and I ask you to look at the county's own website for the crime statistics around this airport; you will find some of the figures reported to you were grossly exaggerated. As you have found out today, speaking with me as well as other airport folks, the other story you heard about everyone being on-board with the current security was also misinformation. Locks only keep honest people, honest. Once again, the request of many at this airport is to return to dusk-to-dawn security, that worked so well for many years.

It is my pledge to help keep you informed as to what we see as business owners and users of this airport. I exchanged emails with Mr. Young earlier today; he indicated a similar tour is in the works for Tacoma Narrows Airport; that is good and I again applaud the council's efforts to keep tabs on the valuable assets we have in the Pierce County Airports. Please keep in mind that any and all of you are also welcome at the airport advisory commission meetings; in fact, the next meeting of the TFAC is tomorrow evening at 6:30, should you have time in your schedule.

Regards,

Michael Thompson,
AVSTAR Aircraft of Washington, Inc.