

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Deborah Raphael, Director, Department of the Environment
John Martin, Director, Airport

FROM: Andrea Ausberry, Assistant Clerk
Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: June 15, 2016

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Avalos on June 7, 2016:

File No. 160673

Resolution urging a permanent halt to the annual Blue Angels air show from flying over populated areas of the City and County of San Francisco.

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: andrea.ausberry@sfgov.org.

c:
Guillermo Rodriguez, Department of the Environment
Anthony Valdez, Department of the Environment
Mei Ling Hui, Department of the Environment
Cathy Widener, Airport
Jean Caramatti, Airport
Ivar C. Satero, Airport

1 [Urging Permanent Halt to the Blue Angels Air Show from Flying over Populated Areas of San
2 Francisco]

3 **Resolution urging a permanent halt to the annual Blue Angels air show from flying over**
4 **populated areas of the City and County of San Francisco.**

5
6 WHEREAS, Pursuant to City and County of San Francisco Environmental Code,
7 Section 101, all officers, boards, commissions and departments shall implement the
8 Precautionary Principle in conducting the City and County affairs; and

9 WHEREAS, The Precautionary Principle requires public servants to take anticipatory
10 action to prevent harm and through exploration and careful analysis select courses of action
11 that present the least threat to all; and

12 WHEREAS, The Blue Angels is an elite Navy exhibition squadron that tours the United
13 States to perform air shows, involving daredevil and tight flight maneuvers; and

14 WHEREAS, The Blue Angels air shows have not occurred without incident or loss of
15 life; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the past 60 years, the Blue Angels air show has resulted in 27
17 fatalities nationally, most recently on Thursday June 2, 2016, when a jet crashed in a
18 residential area of Smyrna, Tennessee, killing pilot Marine Captain Jeff Kuss of a Blue Angels
19 F/A-18 Hornet jet while practicing for a weekend air show, only hours after a jet from the
20 nation's other premier flight demonstration squadron, a Thunderbird F-16, crashed following a
21 flyover at the U.S. Air Force Academy commencement ceremony attended by President
22 Barack Obama; and

23 WHEREAS, There have been other examples of Blue Angels crashes in residential
24 areas, including on April 21, 2007, in Beaufort County, South Carolina, when Blue Angel pilot
25

1 Lt. Cmdr. Kevin J. Davis crashed his plane into several neighborhood homes, killing himself
2 and injuring eight people on the ground; and

3 WHEREAS, Each October, the Blue Angels performs an air show over the City of San
4 Francisco as part of the Fleet Week; and

5 WHEREAS, Based on the recent history and the style of their performance in which the
6 slightest error by a pilot or a mechanical malfunction has been known to have disastrous
7 effects, the Blue Angels air show poses an unwarranted risk to life and property in the
8 densely-populated, urban environment of San Francisco; and

9 WHEREAS, The Blue Angel F/A-18 Hornet jets make a considerable amount of
10 vibration and noise pollution with volume rising to levels that exceed legal limits for the civilian
11 community that is magnified by San Francisco's high-rise buildings; and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a Sanctuary City for many immigrants from war-torn
13 countries and home to thousands of veterans of war who have experienced air bombardment
14 and are at risk of being traumatized when the Blue Angels perform; and

15 WHEREAS, The jets can also disturb many small children, people with disabilities, pets
16 and local wildlife: and, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
18 support the permanent halt to exhibition flyovers over the 47 square miles of the City by all
19 military aircraft including the Blue Angels, allowing such craft to fly over the Bay and Ocean
20 only; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors call on Senator Barbara Boxer,
22 Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi to use all resources at their
23 disposal to bring a permanent halt to exhibition flyovers by military aircraft over populated
24 areas.