



**PEMBROKE PINES CITY
COMMISSION**

Angelo Castillo
MAYOR
954-450-1020
acastillo@ppines.com

Michael A. Hernandez
VICE MAYOR
DISTRICT 4
954-450-1030
mihernandez@ppines.com

Thomas Good, Jr
COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 1
954-450-1030
tgood@ppines.com

Jay D. Schwartz
COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 2
954-450-1030
jschwartz@ppines.com

Maria Rodriguez
COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 3
954-450-1030
mrodriguez@ppines.com

Charles F. Dodge
CITY MANAGER
954-450-1040
cdodge@ppines.com

August 12, 2025

Josh Levy, Mayor
City of Hollywood
2600 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood Florida 33020

Wayne Messam, Mayor
City of Miramar
2300 Civic Center Place
Miramar, FL 33025

Jamie Curran, Mayor
City of Cooper City
9090 SW 50th Place
Cooper City, FL 33328

Dear Mayors Levy, Messam and Curran:

Our cities have a long history of working together to advance public safety. It is in that spirit that I write you today regarding our concerns involving airplane and air quality safety at North Perry Airport.

I have attached a crash history report for the last 5 years created by the Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue Department which serves as first responder to North Perry Airport. The numbers are quite shocking. From its first days as sleepy county airstrip back in 1957, its now become Florida's busiest general aviation airport with over 850 take-offs and landings per day, raising safety concerns. This is a far cry from what one Pembroke Pines pioneer resident and homeowner by the airport said about initial safety challenges: "During the early 60s the biggest safety challenge was keeping jack rabbits and cows off the runway."

North Perry Airport is open 24/7, with operations primarily occurring when the FAA operated tower is open from 7 am to 9 pm. After that, air traffic at the location quickly drops. This averages to about one operation per minute during the peak hours the airport is open. Broward County leases space to numerous aviation businesses and over 400 aircraft, some housed in indoor hangers and others at tie down locations on approximately 500-acre property. We have seen the crash data over the past 5 years eclipse 40 and grow steadily. The most recent was a ditch into the Everglades due to mechanical failure that could have been prevented. Just a month ago, a plane flew into a tree in Pines Village just a mile from the runway making national news. Fortunately, due to the quick action of our residents, the pilot and passengers survived.

Nobody ever asked for a contrast of that magnitude from what this airport was decades ago as our communities grew. Indeed, the strategic master plan, adopted by the Broward County Commission, guiding the operations of this airport, indicates that North Perry has already far exceeded the planned number of take offs and landings they projected for 2035. This growth has created significant revenues generated by North Perry Airport, who lease space to businesses as well, including 11 flight training schools.

The unsettling reality is that the flight increase means our city among others had to confront horrific crashes resulting in fatalities, serious injuries and significant property damage. One such crash claimed the life of 4-year-old Taylor Bishop in a fiery collision in which his mother, who was driving him home on 72nd Avenue, somehow survived. That street is now named in honor of her departed son. Many of the crashes are caused by mechanical failures that should be prevented. It's important to note that many of the small aircraft that lease space at North Perry are more than 50 years old. Older planes need more maintenance checks than the minimal FAA safety requirements, which do not distinguish based on the age of a plane. We want added safety precautions to be legally placed and enforced via county lease provisions. This would improve safety and reduce crash frequency. The tower should be staffed so that requests for takeoffs are only granted to those planes that are certified to fly, which currently doesn't occur. We need such common sense safety improvement that could come from a comprehensive study.

I'd like to now call your attention to the attached resolution that the City of Pembroke Pines has sent to Broward County, which owns and operates this airport, asking for a study of safety at this location with the intent of making improvements, and in addition, for them to conduct air quality studies in response to the EPA's finding that the amount of lead in the air in and around that airport is excessive.

The following are some highlights you may find interesting:

The EPA found that the air quality in and around North Perry Airport was the 4th most lead contaminated air of any airport in the United States. That air, as you imagine, is carried to all parts of South Broward by prevailing winds and lead has been demonstrated to be a health threat to humans, affecting the brain development of children in particular. Over two years ago, having seen the EPA report, the Pembroke Pines City Commission asked the Broward County Aviation Director to appear at a City Commission meeting to discuss what the county should do to confront this threat. It was agreed that \$30,000 would be put into the budget for an air quality study. The Broward Board of County Commissioners supported that allocation. It became part of the budget, however, that air quality study never took place. We can't get a straight answer why. Our residents, and I've heard from yours as well, are concerned that this study has not taken place and that there seems to be no timetable or assurance that it ever will.

Thanks to the advocacy of Commissioner Beam Furr, whose former district included North Perry, a community advisory board was created so that local residents and professionals from our area could speak their minds and ensure that the Broward County Aviation Department at the airport was aware at least of their concerns. Sadly, the committee was phased out due to a sunset provision. The county must debate reauthorization and their role strengthened to carry out certain safety oversight functions and that residents from all surrounding cities should be selected based on their qualifications to participate professionally in said discussions. We are thankful for the keen interest in enhanced safety demonstrated by Commissioner Alexandra Davis who represents that district now.

Page Three

August 12, 2025

Mayors Levy, Messam and Curran

The purpose of my letter is to ask that your City Commissions respectfully add their support to the attached resolution by formal vote. Like you, Pembroke Pines is a strong supporter of the aviation industry. We want to see it thrive and prosper. But we find it too much to have to live in the shadow of a constant threat. We are deeply concerned for the health, safety and welfare of our residents and also worry about the prospect of unabated crashes on area property values. We ask you to join us by adopting this resolution and I am available to you as colleagues if you have any questions. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Sincerely Yours,



Angelo Castillo
Mayor

AC/kfr

Enclosures: Two

cc: Members of the City Commission
Charles F. Dodge, City Manager
Samuel S. Goren, City Attorney