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## **CITY OF ELIZABETH OPPOSES FAA ALTERNATIVE AND NOISE MITIGATION IMPACT**

**ELIZABETH, NJ APRIL 27, 2007**— Mayor Chris Bollwage strongly voiced his opposition to the Integrated Airspace Alternative with Integrated Control Complex (ICC), which has been identified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as the preferred alternative design for the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Metropolitan Airspace Redesign project.

“This alternative demonstrates a complete and total disregard for the concerns of the City of Elizabeth and a gross inequality with respect to air traffic and noise levels, “ said Mayor Chris Bollwage, “the FAA has not addressed the City’s viable environmental justice claims and must take responsibility for the increasing growth of this industry.”

The FAA has proposed re-instating the fanning flight plans, which were utilized in the 1950’s. Historically speaking, the straight-out procedures from Newark Liberty International Airport were the standard procedure until they were banned in the early 1950’s after three horrific airplane crashes occurred with the City of Elizabeth. The accidents took the lives of both individuals on the aircrafts, as well as on the ground. These tragedies were directly related to the straight-out, fanning departures, which are being proposed once again in 2007.

“The FAA has chosen a plan, which had devastating effects more than 50 years ago,” said Mayor Bollwage, “there should be a successful progression of ideas and procedures, not repeating mistakes and perpetuating current problems.”

In addition, there is a mitigated preferred alternative offered for JFK and LaGuardia Airports; however there appears to be no demonstration of a Newark Liberty International Airport mitigated preferred alternative.

The Mayor further requested that back-up data and analysis, as stated within the FAA’s conclusions, be provided to all impacted municipalities so that residents could draw informed conclusions and verify the FAA’s conclusive statements.

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Mayor Bollwage also thanked Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, Congressman Donald Payne, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the City Council of the City of Elizabeth for their public support in opposition of any plan furthered by the FAA which would increase airplane noise over the City of Elizabeth.

“Any increase in airplane noise triggers great concern for Elizabethport and the entire community,” said First Ward Councilman Manny Grova, “these critical matters must be addressed in an effort to remedy the deteriorating quality of life that will result from increased noise pollution.”