

SAVING BRAINARD AIRPORT FROM CLOSURE NEWSLETTER



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Grass Roots Movement to Save Brainard Airport Commences With Strong Support

On January 6, 2022, over 50 members of the general aviation community were present for the first inaugural meeting of the Hartford Brainard Airport Association (HBAA). Represented were general aviation pilots, flight instructors, student pilots, business leaders, avionics and aircraft maintenance business owners, and a wide array of community leaders representing central Connecticut. Everyone present was there to learn about the renewed ef-

forts by both city of Hartford and Connecticut State politicians to close this busy and very active facility that has been serving the region for over 101 years. On the agenda for this meeting was **education** – to learn what was happening – and then **strategy development** – to determine what actions must be taken to halt this remarkably poor decision by Hartford City Council to close a important re-



Brainard Airport and City of Hartford

gional asset. The very enthusiastic 3 hour meeting concluded with a dedicated call to action and the creation of a formal, organized and professional movement committed to keeping this valuable facility from permanent closure.

Executive Committee Formed

Hartford Brainard Airport Association will be formally organized as a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) Corporation with legal representation from the Brown, Pandaris & Scott law firm. A seven-member executive

board has also been organized and is charged with the task of investigating all opportunities to both promote the benefits of general aviation and seek legal options, if necessary, to persuade the City against seeking closure.

Educating the general public as to the reasons why Brainard should stay open is a primary focus. The Board welcomes any participation from interested parties who wish to promote the future of general aviation in Hartford.

President Biden Visits Hartford

On October 15, 2021, President Joseph Biden visited Connecticut to promote his “Build Back Better” agenda and visit our Capitol city. Air Force 1 landed at Bradley Airport, but to avoid the 18 mile, 35 minute drive, the President chose to helicopter and land at



President Biden is greeted by Governor Lamont and Senators Murphy, Blumenthal and State Senator Larson at Brainard

Brainard Field where he was greeted by all of our senior state political leaders. This more expedient route saved him time and the disruption of a motorcade. Seems that if Brainard was the choice of an American President, it should also be the choice of our Hartford politicians as well.

Op-Ed: Mr. Sanchez’s & City of Hartford’s Position

In a recent Hartford Courant article on January 19, 2022, City of Hartford Councilman and MDC employee James Sanchez was quoted as saying that Brainard Airport was not the right fit for the city of Hartford. This was a curious position to take, since he

seems to ignore all the financial benefits a vibrant municipal airport for general aviation can bring to his economically struggling city.

Exactly what is it that Mr. Sanchez would consider to be a better fit? We need to have him clarify his position.

Digging through all the weeds of

“NOT THE
RIGHT FIT”,
MR.
SANCHEZ?

the political rhetoric, if Brainard were to close, the true agenda will likely be to replace it with an unsightly trash transfer station and land use expansion for the



Hartford City Councilman James Sanchez

Metropolitan District Commission. The MDC has had its eye on the property since 2004.

We think that a better fit for Hartford is to preserve and grow general aviation services. The South Meadow property poorly serves the city already. MDC expansion and trash management there can only make things worse —

by magnitudes.

Mr. Sanchez, the HBAA believes that the “Right Fit” for Hartford is to grow and develop Brainard and support all that general aviation can bring to Hartford. Your position needs to be rethought. You need to build on what you already have—not destroy!

Consider the Many Benefits of General Aviation

“Not Just for the Rich Folks but for Everyone in Connecticut”

- Business Travel
- Pilot Training
- Air Ambulance
- News and Traffic Reports
- Aerial Mapping
- Law Enforcement & Homeland Security
- Natural Resource Management
- Sight Seeing
- Search and Rescue
- Personal/Vacation Travel
- Recreational Flying
- Disaster Relief
- Air Traffic Control
- Drone Operations Management
- Fire Fighting
- Job Creation
- Revenue and Tax Income for City and State
- Train Aviation Mechanics
- Historical Landmark
- Afford Opportunities for Inner City Youth to Pursue Careers in Aviation
- Just Fun to Watch Planes Fly!

Can South Meadow Property Be Residential?

State Senator John Fonfara has often made the claim publicly that the 201 acres of Brainard Airport property will be converted for public use by creating luxury apartment living with high-end shopping and river front access for a marina. Aside from the fact that the ground

contamination there would pose a potential huge health risk for a resident, it is highly unlikely that shoppers would travel to the South Meadow when Corbin Corner, West Hartford

Center and Manchester have more than adequate capability. Besides, brick and mortar stores are giving way to on-line purchasing, anyway. Why travel to South Meadow

OUR OPINION: SEEMS PRETTY UNLIKELY THAT ANYONE WOULD WANT TO LIVE BETWEEN A TRASH PLANT AND A WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY.

when Amazon is easier? And any boater knows that a trip from Hartford to the Sound would take at least 3 hours. Why would any boater choose Hartford to keep a boat? The River just isn't a place that a serious boater would choose. Perhaps Mr. Fonfara wasn't really being serious with his comments.

Perhaps he was given wrong information about what could be accomplished there. Or perhaps, he really has some other idea in mind that he's not letting us in on...

We will have to just wait and see when he decides to let us in on his secret...

Holding Our Breath



State Senator John Fonfara

HBAA Mission Statement:

The Hartford Brainard Airport Association is Dedicated to Promoting General Aviation and Keeping Brainard Airport from Closing

For further information or to join the HBAA, contact us at:
Friends of Brainard Airport
keepbrainardflying@gmail.com



**Hartford Brainard
Airport Association**

Who We Are:

The Hartford Brainard Airport Association (HBAA) is a non-profit, grassroots organization established in January 2022 in response to the growing urgency that City of Hartford and State politicians are making a concerted movement to close a valuable resource to the Greater Hartford region – Brainard Airport. Its members are pilots and business leaders who recognize the great value of general aviation to any urban region. They also understand the huge loss that our community would suffer if Brainard were allowed to close. The HBAA believes that our politicians are seriously misguided in their mission. We stand ready to educate and to challenge our legislators that they reconsider their unfortunate present position.

Highlighting: CT AeroTech School

Located at Brainard Field, Hartford

As a part of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, CT Aero Tech offers exceptional training programs for adult learners in the Aviation Maintenance Technology Fields. The school is an approved Aircraft Maintenance Technician School by the FAA under CFR 14 part 147. The CT Aero Tech School offers exemplary instruction and preparation for certification as Airframe and Power-Plant Technicians. The twenty-month program is designed to provide hands-on training where students learn metalwork, woodwork, welding, hydraulics, electrical, painting, and engine-overhaul among other skills. CT Aero's graduates are able to interpret FAA regulations and manufacturer's technical

specifications. The school's mission is to provide the opportunities, expert instruction, and guidance to ensure their students accomplish their goals. Upon completing the General, Airframe and Power Plant curriculums, students are eligible for certification as mechanics with Airframe and or Power Plant ratings. They are prepared to take FAA examinations.

A national shortage of aviation mechanics exists now and threatens the projected expansion and modernization of the global air-

line fleet in both commercial and general aviation.

The training program at CT Aero Tech at Brainard Airport is critically necessary to support the aviation industry.

For more information, contact them at:

860-566-1234

