

Click the link below to follow the \$1.5 million DECD study on the BFJ website as it progresses:

BFJ Study

Next **Critical** Public Meeting:

August 10th, 2023 @ 6:30p
Metzner Community Center

Hartford Brainard Airport Association, Inc. (HBAA)

is a grass-roots organization of general aviation, private and commercial pilots, business leaders and others dedicated to preserving the airport as a valuable community asset and vital economic resource that supports Connecticut's economy and provides significant benefits to the capital city and region. HBAA works to promote the educational opportunities that already exist at Brainard, encouraging city residents to pursue careers in the fields of aviation and aircraft maintenance.

Please consider a donation to support HBAA's efforts to keep Brainard Airport open:



SCAN ME

OR

visit our web site:
www.hfdbaa.org/donations

HARTFORD BRAINARD AIRPORT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Volume 2 Issue 5

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Aug. 1, 2023

A Look to the Future of General Aviation if the “Umbrella of Uncertainty” is Finally Lifted from Brainard Airport

Airport Operations Now:

Future Operations:

Existing Operations at Brainard:

- ◇ **FAA Air Traffic Control Tower Operations coordinated with Bradley Airport**
- ◇ **Major Business Operations at Brainard Airport**
 - Total Aircraft
 - VIP Avionics
 - Aquiline Drones
 - Cirrus Aircraft
 - Dr. Dodenhoff, AME
 - Hartford Jet Center FBO
- ◇ **3 Active Flight Schools**
 - ATP Flight Academy
 - Learn2Fly
 - Premier Flight School
- ◇ **Learn to Fly Youth Programs**
 - EAA Young Eagles at Brainard Chapter 166
- ◇ **Aero technician A&P Training**
 - CT Aerotech
- ◇ **Community Services Based at Brainard**
 - Connecticut State Police
 - Air National Guard
 - Homeland Security
 - Civil Air Patrol
- ◇ **Emergency Medical & Veterinarian Transport**
 - Lifestar Air Ambulance
 - PALS (Patient Airlift Services)
 - Angel Flight NE

Potential for Airport Growth and Substantial Tax Revenue Generation:

- ◇ **Increased hangar space for lease**
 - Corporate lease opportunities with substantial financial benefit
- ◇ **Charter Operations**
 - Significant untapped local market exists for seasonal flights to the Cape, Islands and other vacation destinations.
- ◇ **Aircraft Sales**
- ◇ **Increase Fuel Sales**
 - Increased air traffic promotes increased fuel sales that generate local and state tax revenue.
- ◇ **Restaurant**
 - Long overdue replacement of “The Flying Monkey”
- ◇ **Improved FBO Lounge**
 - Attract more corporate executive clientele to Hartford
- ◇ **Promote aviation education**
 - Establish pipeline for students to underserved aviation careers
- ◇ **Hotel / Conference Center**
- ◇ **Aviation Museum**
- ◇ **Promote shipping relationships with local businesses in “Aerospace Alley”**
- ◇ **Support and Market Exciting New Innovations in General Aviation:**
 - Electric aircraft (Pipistrel)
 - eVTOL
 - Drone Operations



Charitable Effort by Brainard Airport's General Aviation Pilots supports **Pilots N Paws®**.



HBAA Board member Art Utay, and his wife Janet, returned to Connecticut this past Sunday, completing a rescue mission for 2 cats in need of relocation from a southern state. Art and his wife flew his mission under the auspices of the national organization, **Pilots N Paws®**. **Pilots N Paws** is a non-profit, web based meeting place for volunteers engaged in offering the valuable services of rescuing, sheltering and adopting animals, and volunteer pilots and plane owners who are willing to assist with animal rescue and transportation. The intent of **Pilots N Paws** is to provide a web-based environment in which volunteers can come together and arrange or schedule rescue flights, overnight foster care or shelter, and all other related activities. Art is one of 37 community minded, charitable and philanthropic pilots in the greater Hartford region who utilized **Brainard Airport** and other local airports to volunteer their time and aircraft, at their own expense, to promote this important service.



Small GA Airports, like Brainard in Hartford, are the perfect setting with which to carry out this important animal-rescue activity. **HBAA** salutes Art and the many other general aviation pilots who utilize their home general aviation airport to further the efforts of this worthy charitable organization.

HBAA Editorial: : Next Hartford Mayor and City Officials Should Not Ignore the Facts

What a breath of fresh air it would be if our leaders would just say what they really mean and not make the public struggle to interpret their words. Too often there is a spoken agenda the person holding the mic hopes you believe, and then a more accurate but unspoken message – the behind-the-scenes agenda - that is intentionally made much less clear to the public. Only the truth however, brings understanding, if the public were allowed to know it.

To illustrate my point, take soon to retire mayor Luke Bronin's July 13th performance at BFJ Planning's public forum, held at Metzner Community Center in Hartford. The purpose of the meeting was to bring interested parties up to date with the ongoing \$ 1.5 mil state funded study to determine "the best and highest use" of the Brainard Airport property, whether to preserve it as an airport or repurpose it for other uses.

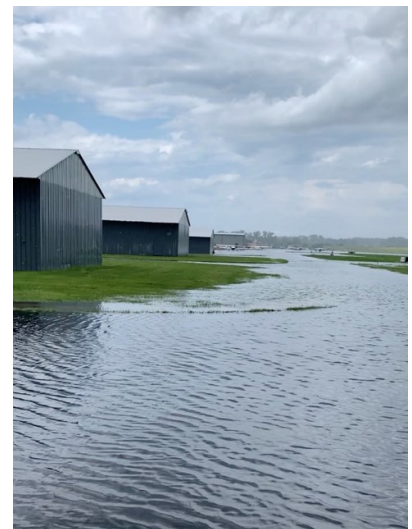
Mayor Bronin arrived at the meeting 20 minutes late, shook a few hands, gave a few hugs, smiled for a photograph and then restated his hardened position that the airport doesn't do anything to benefit the city, and the city would be better served by developing additional housing. Then, amid obvious exasperation from the well informed audience, he swiftly exited the meeting without taking a single question or expressing a willingness to debate.

Most will take as a given that Mr. Bronin is a smart guy. Rhodes scholar, Yale & Oxford University graduate, attorney who as mayor of Hartford steered the city out of bankruptcy and through COVID. Credit given where credit is due. But we must also assume he is smart enough to know full well, the facts about Brainard he continues to deny...

The Brainard property regularly floods, as demonstrated just last week with the cresting of the Connecticut River. Global warming data implies that flooding will not be an isolated event in the South Meadow. The dike's protection will not be adequate. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) issued a 2018 land study, declaring that the contaminated MIRA and Brainard property is **not safe for residential** housing. Resting between the MIRA plant to the north and MDC waste treatment plant to the south, the area literally stinks – especially in the summer. The cost to taxpayers to rehabilitate the property, were it even possible to do so, would make most of us gasp with disbelief. The adjacent MIRA plant is already a superfund site. Who will choose to live in this area, Mr. Mayor?

We won't speculate what underlies Mr. Bronin's comments or his true agenda, but affordable housing to meet Hartford's demands can't be the true agenda. He is too smart to believe the claims he made at the BFJ Planning meeting. So, though he will soon be replaced by a next mayor who will hopefully provide a more honest message to the public, Bronin's words and stated position will continue to be challenged by those who can legitimately back up their positions with facts, figures, and honest, accurate analysis. The voters always deserve clarity and honesty from their elected leaders. Regrettably, we feel that Mr. Bronin owed it to Hartford residents to have done better.

Arnold L. Goldman DVM, MPH, CEM
Vice President
Hartford Brainard Airport Association, Inc.



Taxiway J at Brainard on 7/21/23

Visit our Web site:
www.hfdbaa.org

For additional information, please contact:
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or visit us on Facebook