Campos, Sandra

From: scampos@cityofpasadena.net
Subject: FW: Public Comment - Pasadena Finance Committee 8/24/26

From: Yadi
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 12:44 PM
To: Acevedo, Gloria <gacevedo@cityofpasadena.net>; PublicComment-AutoResponse <correspondence@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Public Comment - Pasadena Finance Committee 8/24/26

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Hi,

Please find below my comment for the August 24, 2026 Finance Committee meeting, agenda item 3. Helicopter expansion construction.

This bid is yet another example of a lack of disclosure and transparency about the full operating and maintenance costs of City programs and equipment. Furthermore, since it has to do with helicopters - some of which are subject to AB 481 - this action would be in violation of the law which requires disclosure of both ongoing and projected future costs *in advance* in the annual AB 481 report.

The full operating costs of multiple helicopters (way beyond norm for similarly situated cities) is not fully disclosed to the public.

Council must also make clear to the public if this expansion will also be used to house the new almost $2 million Mobile Command Center. If so, then there again, is another instance of not disclosing the full upfront and ongoing costs of equipment. And what about the older Mobile Command Center? Neither the City nor PPD has confirmed that the old MCC has been disposed of, donated, sold or whatever. So are we storing and maintaining two MCCs? Same with the older helicopters. Where are they? How can we be sure this expansion isn't being used to store additional equipment not in the report?

And one additional side note is that a MCC provides the function that is described as the need for a future Real Time Crime Center aka "Active Intelligence Center" as nicknamed by PPD. The purported purpose of a Mobile Command Center was for situational intelligence and for use in large scale events and disasters. So, the city does not need a RTCC for the Olympics. Saying so is just using the pretext of combating terrorism to buy and use more surveillance equipment in Pasadena. And no, we dont want more surveillance under the pretext of the Olympics or anti-terrorism or "safety".

Yadi
Pasadena Finance Committee
August 24, 2026
3. Heliport Expansion

Campos, Sandra

From: scampos@cityofpasadena.net
Subject: FW: Public Comment Agenda Item #3 - FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE August 24, 2026

-----Original Message-----
From: Victor Caballero
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 12:05 PM
To: Acevedo, Gloria <gacevedo@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #3 - FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE August 24, 2026

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To: Finance and Audit Committee, City of Pasadena
Date: August 24, 2026
Subject: Public Comment – Opposition to Proposed Heliport and Helicopter Funding

Dear Members of the Finance and Audit Committee,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a new heliport and the allocation of municipal funds for the procurement of new helicopters, as referenced in today's agenda.

First, the development of a new heliport presents severe quality-of-life and environmental issues for our community. The inevitable increase in noise pollution and localized disruption will unfairly burden residents.

Second, I question the operational necessity and current use-case of expanding our aerial fleet. While evaluating and upgrading public safety technology is essential for a modern city, an over-reliance on continuous, broad aerial surveillance often yields diminishing returns for actual community safety. The constant presence of helicopters over our neighborhoods is highly disruptive to the daily lives of residents and rarely provides a proportional benefit over well-equipped ground units.

Finally, the sheer cost required for this initiative represents a substantial misallocation of taxpayer resources. As a committee tasked with strict fiscal oversight, I urge you to scrutinize not only the initial capital expenditure but the immense long-term financial burden of maintaining, fueling, and staffing these assets. These funds would be far better invested directly into our neighborhoods—whether through housing initiatives, local infrastructure, or more targeted, cost-effective public safety technologies that do not carry the same heavy fiscal and environmental toll.

I urge the committee to prioritize fiscal responsibility and community well-being by rejecting the funding for the new heliport and the new helicopters. Thank you for your time and your service to our city.

Sincerely,