Communication from Public

Name: Tiran Keshishyan 02/08/2024 10:01 AM **Date Submitted:**

Council File No: 24-0125

Comments for Public Posting: City Council City of Los Angeles 200 N Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 Re: In Support of Bonseph Helinet, Trade, Travel and Tourism committee February 8, 2024 Special Committee Meeting, Agenda Item 3, Council File No. 24-0125 Honorable Councilmembers: I have been a resident of North Hills and a neighbor to Van Nuys for over 22 years. I love this city because it is my home and the place where I work. My first ever air show was at Van Nuys airport and seeing the B-2 do a low fly by was nothing short of amazing! In March, I will celebrate my 2-year anniversary with Helinet Aviation as a Flight Follower (dispatcher). I have had previous jobs, but nothing compares to Helinet; the professionalism is outstanding, and I consider it as my second family. The hangar we work out of is 50 plus years old and it's showing her age. Management pours money into maintenance and remodeling touches but there is so much work to be done, it is hard to keep up with all the rains and summer heat. My main mission as a Flight Follower is to setup and track all our flights, from hospital teams going to organ procurements, to organ delivery, to patient transport for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, to tourists who want to see LA from above, to Electronic News Gathering (ABC 7), to making movies! We do it all here and the airport is in the best location possible. As a dispatcher, I must stay in the office to track flights and answer calls. I also must take my lunch at my desk which I receive a meal penalty for. The reason I bring this up is because when this last storm came in, I had the hallways, office, and the hangers leaking while at the same time trying to cover dispatch. When the calls stopped, I had to find sandbags, a bucket and mop to clean and contain as much as I could. Its 2024 and an updated facility would be so much appreciated. We are not asking to replace our facility with a larger one. We just want a modern facility with proper working conditions. The condition of our facilities is why, in 2021, Helinet responded to an RFP issued by LAWA to rebuild at our current location. Many of you are aware that in January 2022, following a competitive bidding process, Helinet was awarded the rights to redevelop, pending the customary BOAC (Board of Airport Commissioners) approval process. I encourage you all to please reconsider modernizing our facility. Van Nuys airport brings in jobs and money for the community and it should be a top priority

to modernize its tenants with proper working conditions. We have the World Cup in 2026 and the Olympic Games in 2028. It should be a top priority for TTT to consider redevelopment. I urge you to stop by anytime 24/7 and have a visit. Sincerely, Tiran Keshishyan, Flight Follower

City Council City of Los Angeles 200 N Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Honorable Councilmembers:

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Sincerely,

Tiran Keshishyan, Flight Follower