



February 15, 2019

Mr. John Lampinen  
Editor  
Daily Herald  
155 East Algonquin Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Mr. Lampinen,

I write in response to two recent publications in the Daily Herald. Both use similar language to intimate that there is a proposal to expand or extend runways at Chicago Executive Airport (CEA). In the Daily Herald Editorial Board Soapbox dated February 9, 2019, the phrase "proposal to build a longer runway" is included, while Mr. Steve Zalusky uses the words "proposed runway extension" in his article *Mount Prospect hears from opponents of runway extension at Chicago Executive Airport*, dated February 8, 2019.

Language to this effect is simply inaccurate, although I know that it is most likely unintentional. Let me be indisputably clear – **there is no current resolution or vote in front of the CEA Board of Directors or the municipalities of Wheeling and Prospect Heights to extend any runway of the Chicago Executive Airport.**

It's extremely disheartening to see inaccurate information being published about our organization, especially since no one from the Daily Herald reached out to Airport staff or members of the Board of Directors to understand the issue prior to the publication of these articles.

CEA is in the final stage of a 5-year master planning study to ensure the safety, longevity, and financial viability of this community asset for the next 20-30 years. This process is similar to something a municipality does through a comprehensive plan, or a for-profit company would achieve through a McKinsey 7S study or SWOT analysis. The study – which has an FAA-prescribed methodology – looks at *all aspects* of the airport, including but not limited to, runways, safety and environmental measures, noise contour lines, vacant or underdeveloped property on the airfield, and the current footprint layout. While current runway length is being studied, it is nothing more than an information gathering exercise on various options. In fact, Village of Wheeling President Pat Horcher recently wrote to the Daily Herald Editorial Board and echoed this, saying that at this current time, there are no upcoming votes or resolutions to extend any runway.

As an Army combat veteran who saw firsthand the dangers of a muffled press in Afghanistan, transparency is extremely important to me and is a core value of our organization. CEA has hosted multiple open houses and stakeholder involvement groups around issues such as noise and the master planning process. Further, we're happy to answer questions or have a discussion with anyone from your organization in order to ensure the public is informed about the airport and actions the CEA staff and Board of Directors are taking to ensure our wonderful community asset is being maximized for the residents of both Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Court Harris".

D. Court Harris  
Chairman