

June 9th, 2026

Cleveland City Council

Blaine Griffin, Council President
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114



Re: Request for Public Forum on the Future of Burke Lakefront Airport

Dear Members of Cleveland City Council,

As tenants, operators, employers, and aviation stakeholders at Burke Lakefront Airport, we are writing to respectfully request a dedicated public forum that allows airport users and stakeholders to directly address City Council regarding the future of Burke Lakefront Airport.

According to a 2026 ODOT Aviation System Plan Study, Burke is an active transportation asset that supports \$194.8 million in annual economic activity and 664 jobs with over \$58.5 million in payroll, including business aviation operations, medical flights, flight training, public safety operations, aviation services, and local and regional events. Any discussion about its future should include those who contribute to job creation, workforce development opportunities, and economic stimulus that the airport supports. At the center of the discussion should be the absence of a viable plan to replace the jobs and economic loss that would come with the closure of the airport.

Over the past year, discussions regarding the future of Burke have accelerated significantly. The city has released redevelopment concepts, pursued federal engagement related to closure, and continued advancing a public narrative around the future of the site. At the same time, those of us who operate businesses, employ local residents, invest capital, and rely on the airport every day have not been provided a meaningful public opportunity to present our concerns, ask questions, or respond to many of the assumptions being made about the airport and its future.

We appreciate the hearings conducted by the Transportation and Mobility Committee and Council's stated commitment to a transparent and data-driven review of the future of Burke Lakefront Airport. When the hearing process was announced, it was presented as a comprehensive effort to evaluate the long-term implications of closure and redevelopment.

Despite four hearings and repeated discussions of stakeholder engagement and public input, airport tenants, operators, aviation users, and employers have still not been provided with a dedicated public forum to present our concerns and analysis. The hearings focused primarily on redevelopment concepts, closure pathways, environmental conditions, and studies commissioned by the City. While those perspectives are important, the businesses and organizations most directly impacted by a potential closure have not been given a comparable opportunity to present operational, economic, legal, and aviation-system impacts for public consideration.

This concern is heightened by recent public reporting indicating that the initial hearing process has effectively concluded. As reported by Signal Cleveland, City Council recently “wrapped up the fourth in a quartet of hearings” on the future of Burke, while discussion has now shifted to whether additional hearings may be scheduled to hear from airport stakeholders and others who support keeping Burke open.

For those of us whose businesses, employees, investments, and operations are directly tied to Burke, it is difficult to understand how a process examining one of the most significant transportation and land-use decisions facing the city can reach that stage without first providing a dedicated public forum for affected stakeholders. We do not believe that is an acceptable public process.

We are therefore respectfully requesting that City Council convene a public stakeholder forum focused specifically on airport users, tenants, operators, employees, and aviation organizations. Such a forum would allow Council and the public to hear directly from those most impacted and help ensure that any future decisions are informed by a complete and balanced record.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to continuing to engage constructively as these discussions move forward.

Sincerely,

Aitheras Aviation Group

Zone Aviation

Signature Aviation

Argonaut Aerospace High School

Cleveland National Airshow

Northeast Ohio Pilot Association

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

National Business Aviation Association

National Air Transportation Association

Ohio Regional Business Aviation Association