



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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July 18, 2007

The Honorable Daniel Davis
President, Jacksonville City Council
117 West Duval Street, Suite 425
Jacksonville, Florida 33202

Dear Mr. President:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is a non-profit membership association consisting of over 412,000 pilots and aircraft owners, 32,000 of whom reside in the State of Florida. AOPA is committed to ensuring the continued viability, growth, and development of aviation and airports in Florida and the United States. At the same time, we are dedicated to maintaining harmony between our members and others in the community.

In June 2006, the Jacksonville City Council adopted Ordinance 2006-543-E amending Chapter 656 of the city zoning code. This legislation prohibits storing or parking or storing aircraft on residentially-zoned property other than in completely enclosed buildings, and also prohibits repairing, testing, operating, constructing, modifying or altering aircraft in all residential districts.

Our understanding is that this ordinance was enacted to address a single dispute involving one individual. Unfortunately, this restrictive ordinance places a significant and unreasonable obstacle in the path of City residents interested in amateur-built (also known as homebuilt or custom built) aircraft.

We can appreciate the City's desire to develop reasonable general noise and nuisance restrictions that apply to a broad range of activities. At the same time, we are concerned that Jacksonville's narrowly focused ordinance singles out for restriction some of our members who's passion for aviation led them to construct their own aircraft, while their non-aircraft recreation hobbyist neighbors are allowed to park, store, test, construct, repair, or operate their boats, recreation vehicles, automobiles and motorcycles right next door without the strictures applied to aircraft. We are sure you can appreciate the desire to see our members treated in a manner consistent with other similar hobbyists.

Builders of these aircraft are responsible, law-abiding citizens from all walks of life who share a love for aviation. According to recent records of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which inspects and regulates amateur/homebuilt aircraft, there are currently more than 23,000 such aircraft licensed by them in the United States. The pilots of these aircraft must also be licensed by the FAA and the aircraft must be operated in

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accordance with Federal Air Regulations. Since the days of the Wright Brothers, amateur aircraft builders have been an integral part of aviation in America and have made great contributions to improvements in aircraft design and utility.

In the interest of fairness we request that the Jacksonville City Council revisit the provisions of Ordinance 2006-543-E and provide a solution to the city zoning code that eliminates the discrimination this ordinance has created against the individuals participating in the amateur/homebuilt segment of general aviation in the City of Jacksonville. If we can be of any assistance to you as you consider this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Florida Regional Representative, Mr. Nelson Rhodes, who can be reached at nelson.rhodes@aopa.org.

Sincerely,



Gregory Pecoraro
Vice President, Regional Affairs

cc: John Peyton, Mayor, City of Jacksonville
William B. Ashbaker, Manager, FDOT Aviation Office
Nelson D. Rhodes, AOPA Florida Regional Representative