

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Maturo Calls for Immediate Review of Proposed Tweed Legislation by East Haven Legal Counsel**

In response to the recent proposal by the City of New Haven's Legislative Delegation of legislation that would allow for the paving of the runway safety areas at Tweed New Haven Airport, Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr. announced today that East Haven's legal counsel will begin an immediate review of the proposed legislation and will be taking any and all steps necessary to protect the Town's best interests, especially the interests of residents living in the vicinity of the airport.

Maturo explained, "The saga of the expansion of Tweed Airport is a long and complicated one, marked by justifiable skepticism on the part of the Town of East Haven. At every critical juncture in the airport's history, the Town of East Haven has made imminently reasonable compromises and has repeatedly been by various parties told that further concessions would not be sought. Despite these compromises, the Authority and the City of New Haven have continually sought additional concessions from the Town of East Haven with regard to the status and operation of the facility, further fueling the Town's skepticism regarding plans for the future of the airport."

The proposed legislation directly conflicts with the 2009 agreement between East Haven, New Haven, and the Tweed Airport Authority insofar as it calls for "paving existing runway safety areas at Tweed New Haven Airport," a violation of the agreement's condition that "Runway 2-20 of the airport shall not exceed the existing paved runway length of five thousand six hundred linear feet."

Maturo continued, "From the closure of Ore Avenue overnight to the complete relocation of Dodge Avenue, East Haven has been both understanding and accommodating. East Haven understands and embraces the economic importance of Tweed Airport and the Town does not intend to obstruct reasonable, mutually beneficial operation of the facility. However, in light of the impact on area residents of paving the runway safety areas, I have asked the Town's legal counsel to undertake an immediate review of the proposed legislation, the 2009 agreement, and all other pertinent information so as to ensure that the Town and area residents are fully protected and represented if this legislation is considered in the current session."

Maturo explained, "The City of New Haven was sensitive to the outcry of New Haven Residents who strongly opposed a recent proposal to construct a parking garage in and around the airport property. The paving of the runway safety areas, which is a de-facto expansion of the runway length, raises significant public safety and quality of life issues for East Haven residents who deserve the same sensitivity and who have every right to be heard if and when this legislation is considered."

Maturo concluded, "Upon review of the legislation by our town counsel, I intend to immediately open up a dialogue with the City of New Haven and the New Haven Legislative Delegation regarding this proposed legislation. East Haven residents, especially those living in the vicinity of the airport, can rest assured that this administration will do everything necessary to protect the Town's interests with regard to this critically important issue."

*For more information, please contact Frank Gentilesco at 203-468-3204.*