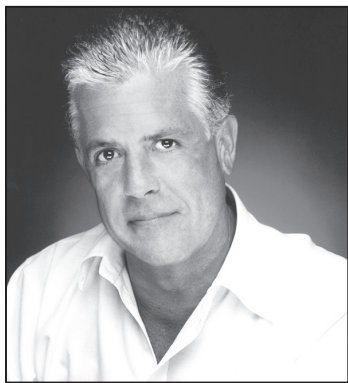


Cityscape



By Mayor Kelly McDowell

I just read an email from Michael Foote, the head of the air traffic controllers' union at the LAX tower--and a long-time veteran of Los Angeles International Airport--concerning the latest "runway incursion" at the airport. Apparently, it was ugly and darn close to causing injury or death.

This runway incursion was on the south side of the airport, which is one reason why I bring it up.

Simply put, runway incursions are incidents where an airplane pilot traveling on a taxiway puts part of his ship on a runway where it doesn't belong at the time, thus presenting a dangerous and potentially deadly obstruction to any other airplane using the runway in question.

While I do not know Michael Foote well, I can confidently say that he is a smart, caring guy who, by all accounts, does his job exceptionally well. (I will also say that nothing in this column is the opinion of anyone but me and I have had no contact with Mr. Foote in connection with it. I say this lest some mischief-maker somehow use my reckless prose against Mr. Foote's interests.)

Michael's is not an easy job, nor widely appreciated or recognized, as is the case, I think, with all of his colleagues across the

country. I've never heard anyone on any airplane flight ever express the slightest expression of pride or appreciation concerning the quality of service that air traffic controllers provide. I'll say right now that it is uniformly extraordinary and that the safety records of air carriers in the United States reflect that fact.

But controllers can't do it all when it comes to keeping you safe in an airplane, especially when the plane is on the ground. And especially if it's on the ground at LAX.

You see, LAX leads the nation in runway incursions. Historically, most of them have happened on the south side, nearest to El Segundo. But that is a misleading fact.

Back in 2005, as part of the historic settlement of the environmental litigation between our city, Los Angeles World Airports and other airport neighbors, we permitted construction of what is now known as the South Airfield Improvement Project (SAIP). That project separated the two southern runways at LAX enough to allow construction of a centerline taxiway between them in order to improve safety and reduce runway incursions.

The project worked and south side incursions are down overall. But the south airfield still has more runway incursions than the north side.

Why is this? LAX has installed the airfield equivalents of stoplights and other cautionary indicators and markings on both the north and south airfields, but the south side continues to have more incursions than the north. How come this keeps happening, if SAIP was such a success?

To my mind there is a simple answer. The SAIP needs to be duplicated on the north side--Now!

Much work is underway at LAX to improve

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Police Reports

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

One male adult was arrested at 0226 hours in at Bungalow Drive and Grand Avenue for plain drunk in public.

An on-line vandalism report was taken at 0206 hours. In the 1900 block of E. Imperial Avenue, victim's vehicle was "keyed."

Burglary report was taken at 1428 hours in the 1900 block of Hughes Way. Incident occurred between 01/09 and 10/25/09. Taken were three American Flyer train sets and a steel dolly, total loss \$5,075.00.

One male adult was arrested at 1931 hours from Aviation Boulevard and 123rd Street for one Inglewood P.D. misdemeanor traffic warrant.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

One male adult was arrested at 0133 hours at Sepulveda Boulevard and Grand Avenue for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Burglary (auto) report was taken at 0555 hours from the 100 block of Concord Street. Unknown suspect(s) smashed the window to the victim's vehicle and fled the scene. Unknown what was taken.

One male adult was arrested at 0734 hours from the 500 block of N. Sepulveda Boulevard for being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Burglary (auto) report was taken at 0836 hours from the 400 block of Concord Street. Unknown suspect(s) broke into the victim's vehicle. Unknown what was taken.

Burglary (auto) report was taken at 0815 hours from the 600 block of Whiting Street. Unknown suspect(s) broke into the victim's vehicle and a briefcase was taken. The briefcase was later found in the 500 block of Whiting Street.

Vandalism report was taken at 1024 hours from the 600 block of Lomita Street. Unknown suspect(s) slashed all four tires of the victim's vehicle.

Identity theft report was taken at 1238 hours from the 200 block of Sierra Street. Unknown suspect opened an account in the victim's name.

One male adult was arrested at 0502 hours from Imperial Highway and Sepulveda Boulevard and booked at 1602 hours for driving under the influence of alcohol and resisting a peace officer.

Injury report was taken at 1808 hours in the 400 block of East Grand Avenue. A male broke his arm.

One male adult was arrested at 0010 in the 1400 block of East Imperial Avenue for one outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

One male adult was arrested at 0122 hours at Main Street and Grand Avenue for possession of marijuana for sale and one outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

One male adult was arrested at 0343 hours at Continental Boulevard and El Segundo Boulevard for driving under the influence

of alcohol.

Traffic accident (with injuries) occurred at 0753 hours from the 900 block of Main Street. Two vehicles were involved.

An incident report of an attempted burglary was taken at 0856 hours from Mariposa Avenue and Arena Street.

One male adult was arrested at 1612 hours from the 300 block of North Sepulveda Boulevard for assault with a deadly weapon and battery.

One male adult was arrested at 2047 in the 200 block of East Grand Avenue for petty theft.

One male adult was arrested at 2101 hours at Vista Del Mar and the Hyperion Plant for one outstanding felony warrant.

One female adult was arrested at 2224 hours at Imperial Highway and Aviation Boulevard for one outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

One female adult was arrested at 0031 hours at Vista Del Mar and the Hyperion Plant for driving under the influence of alcohol.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

One male adult was arrested at 0434 hours in the 400 block of Illinois Street for violation of a court order.

Injury report was taken at 0503 hours in the 600 block of Loma Vista Street.

Vandalism report was taken at 0813 hours in the 100 block of Nevada Street. Vandalism report was taken at 0906 hours in the 600 block of Lomita Street. Suspects threw objects at the victim's vehicle.

One male adult was arrested at 1839 hours from the 1700 block of East Walnut Avenue for driving without a license and was subsequently issued a citation.

Annoying phone calls report was taken at 1939 hours from the 600 block of East Imperial Avenue.

One male adult was arrested at 2206 hours from Franklin Avenue and Oregon Street for less than one ounce of marijuana and was subsequently issued a citation.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

One female adult was arrested at 0140 hours in the 100 block of Virginia Street for battery.

One female adult was arrested at 0421 hours in the 400 block of West Imperial Avenue for being under the influence of a controlled substance and driving on a suspended license.

One female adult was arrested at 1330 hours from Imperial Highway and Aviation Boulevard for one ESPD and one LAPD traffic warrant.

An on-line lost property report was taken at 1545 hours. In the 700 block of South Sepulveda Boulevard, a RIM Blackberry was lost.

An on-line lost property report was taken at 1617 hours. In the 1400 block of East

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Hyperion or Aircraft Noise Complaint Hotline

(310) 640-CITY (2489)

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All complaints will be Reviewed by City staff.

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