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July 15, 2025

Broward County Mayor and Commissioners  
115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 423  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

I write to you with great concern for the safety of our residents living near North Perry Airport. The threats presented to Broward's second most populous city is unacceptable and action required. Attached is a report assembled by the Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue Department detailing 35 incidents/crashes at the airport, not including those that ditch into the Everglades or land on US 27, over the past 5 years. Wherever that kind of crash record is considered safe, that place is not Pembroke Pines or greater Southwest Broward where at least a half million residents live within a five-mile radius of North Perry.

Sunday evening, a plane attempting to land at North Perry crashed into a tree one mile short of the runway. I was at the crash site within less than an hour from the incident being briefed by Pembroke Pines Police, speaking to residents and offering comments to TV news media. Video from residents shows that the plane flew directly into a tree, narrowly missing houses. Residents hearing the crash rushed to the scene and if not for their help, the pilot and his three passengers may not have survived the fire. Our residents saved the passengers from the wreckage. They were transported to Memorial Regional and are expected to survive and recover. However, safety concerns are wide ranging and significant in this densely populated community, who fear being struck by or otherwise impacted by any of the many planes that take off or land at North Perry. I'll mention one incident, in particular, which occurred just a few years ago, in which a child, Taylor Bishop, lost his life as he and his mother were traveling home on 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. A plane in mechanical distress attempting a landing at North Perry crashed into their car. A house was also struck by that crashing plane causing damage. We named that street after this 3-year-old boy who lost his life that day, his mother somehow miraculously survived this horrific crash. That plane was not airworthy yet somehow takeoff was authorized. Indeed, the attached report details the causes of all these accidents as being related to pilot error or mechanical failures, most of which could have been avoided had reasonable and prudent safety considerations been followed.

We have heard too many excuses in the past and our patience has run out with this airport.

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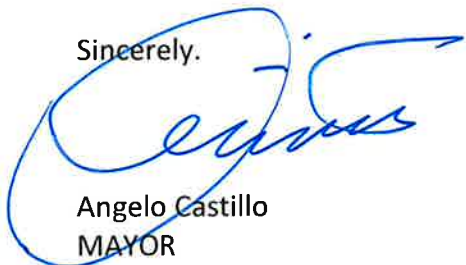
Broward County Mayor and Commissioners

July 15, 2025

Our residents demand action and as their Mayor I call upon the Broward County Commission to authorize an immediate, thorough, and independent safety investigation of this airport to recommend actions that will significantly bolster safety and public trust in the airport's operations. Pembroke Pines residents in the vicinity of North Perry Airport are also concerned that two years ago, \$30,000 was appropriated by Broward County to conduct an independent air quality study of the airport on the heels of an alarming EPA report citing it with high amounts of lead contamination. Lead in the air has been proven to affect the healthy development of children, in particular. Despite the appropriation of funds, no study has commenced. City Manager Charles Dodge and I met with the County Administrator about this concern some months ago and look forward to hearing the county's plans to move that study forward. We also discussed the importance of the Community Advisory Board that was created when North Perry was part of Commissioner Beam Furr's district. Pembroke Pines will be forever grateful for the creation of this board which allows residents, for the first time, to have an organized voice in airport matters. That Board is scheduled for your reauthorization, and we asked the County Administrator to share the proposed draft with us before it is presented to you. We are thankful that she expressed willingness to do so and we look forward to seeing it.

As Pembroke Pines Mayor, I respectfully request that you ascribe seriousness to this concern by authorizing the above-described investigation and report which should be undertaken without delay. While underscoring our strong support for the aviation industry, I must underscore that safety must vastly improve at North Perry and I turn to you for help to deliver that outcome. Under present circumstances, the continued operations of this airport are incompatible with the interests of our people and unduly threaten the lives and safety of our residents. Please count on me, our City Commission and administration to work closely with you to produce better results for all involved. I am of course available to discuss this serious matter with you directly and immediately.

Sincerely,



Angelo Castillo  
MAYOR

City of Pembroke Pines

AC/kfr

Cc: Members of the City Commission  
Charles F. Dodge, City Manager  
Samual S. Goren, City Attorney