

### **Position to Reject Bonseph Helinet Lease**

CF 24-0125. Bonseph Helinet, LLC / 16231 Waterman Drive / Van Nuys Airport / Lease Agreement. *Position: **For / Update***

This update clarifies SONC seeks a rejection of the Bonseph-Helinet lease at Van Nuys Airport (VNY), and thus takes a position for City Council's motion to reject such lease.

Whereas, in June 2023 the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) recommended in its CIS relative to CF 22-1127 that the City Council reject the Bonseph-Helinet lease at Van Nuys Airport (VNY). And,

On March 1, 2024, the City Council voted to adopt the Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee's recommendation to disapprove the lease based in part on the Councilmembers' assessment of the bidding process being improper due to noncompetitive concerns and violation of the City Charter Section 10.15(d) that granted Bonseph-Helinet LLC unfair advantages.

However, because of a FAA Part 13 Complaint initiated by Curt Castagna, a partner of the proposed lessee and President of the VNAA and on behalf of the VNAA, the proposed lease has been brought back to City Council for reconsideration.

In light of the proposed lease being considered again, on November 6, 2024 the VNY Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) recommended, for a second time, that the proposed Bonseph-Helinet Lease at VNY be rejected by the City Council.

SONC is in support of the VNY CACs November 6th motion to reject the Bonseph-Helinet lease for reasons stated in the CAC motion that include the bidding process leading up to the proposed lease being non-competitive, and as confirmed by a City Attorney letter dated October 29, 2024.

We further recommend that, moving forward, the Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) respect the City Councils' discretion and work to ensure that bidding processes are fair, open, transparent and with preferential treatment for none.