

RESOLUTION NO. 9550

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
ACCIDENT POTENTIAL ZONES
&
ASSOCIATED LAND DEVELOPMENT NEAR
MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE

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WHEREAS, additional commercial and residential development has recently been announced for the southeast Great Falls area in the vicinity of 10th Avenue South and 57th Street; and,

WHEREAS, these announcements have spurred public discussion and debate because of the proximity of the proposed development to the flight approach area of the closed runway at Malmstrom Air Force Base; and,

WHEREAS, the public discussion and debate have centered around the interest to answer the questions, “Do we want to keep all of our options open for the potential reopening of the former runway at Malmstrom Air Force Base for future flying missions, or do we want to allow economic development to occur within the described Accident Potential Zones?”; and,

WHEREAS, there are two specific viewpoints or rationale driving these questions, including 1) The runway is an irreplaceable valuable asset and needs to be preserved to make certain we have a long term, viable military presence; and, 2) The chances of overcoming all the obstacles to reopening the runway are small and we need to “move on” as a community and allow development we know we can get; and,

WHEREAS, The City Planning Office and the City Manger’s Office have prepared a discussion paper to help frame the issues with the intent to provide accurate and relevant information to 1) assist open public discussion, 2) assist in the development of position statements, and 3) assist in the development of a public strategy or strategies; and,

WHEREAS, copies of the discussion paper have been provided to a number of community individuals and organizations for their information and use; and,

WHEREAS, it was suggested in the discussion paper that it serve as the basis for an initial information meeting of all major players and stakeholders, including base supporters, property owners, City and County officials and the general public and that the initial meeting could also serve as a listening session to allow all to voice their issues of interest and concern; and,

WHEREAS, depending on the outcome of the information meeting and listening session, those entities interested in doing so would be encouraged to develop “position statements” to help establish community consensus, along with helping to frame a possible strategy or action plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana as follows:

1. The City Commission respects the interests, viewpoints and efforts of the individuals, landowners, developers, groups and organizations involved with this complex issue.

2. The City Commission recognizes the irreplaceable value of Malmstrom Air Force Base and its closed runway. Further, the City Commission supports and encourages community efforts to secure future flying missions.

3. The City Commission recognizes the rights of landowners and others interested in developing properties in the vicinity of Malmstrom Air Force Base and further recognizes the significance of community economic growth and development.

4. The City Commission supports a broad based public discussion of this complex issue by all major community players and stakeholders, including base supporters, property owners, local government officials and the general public. Further, the City Commission proposes a formal decision-making process be initiated within 30 days of this resolution to help develop consensus and an action plan that fairly and equitably addresses identified issues and concerns. This should be accomplished such that it does not unduly place the entire burden on either the backs of the property owners or of the public.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, this 7th day of February, 2006.

Dona R. Stebbins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Peggy J. Bourne, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

David V. Gliko, City Attorney