

June 24, 2017

Background:

Privatization: the transfer of a business, industry or service from public to private ownership and control.

“The Trump administration is crafting a plan that could pay state and local governments money to compel them to sell some public assets like airports, bridges, highway rest stops and other facilities as it seeks to reform the nation’s crumbling infrastructure. Washington Post

*“Westchester County is currently seeking interested private operators.”*

*This implies that the decision has been made to privatize the airport?*

My opening comments:

Thanks to Martin Rogowsky and David Gelfarb for their comments and commentary on the County Executive's Privatization proposal. Given this background I'd like to make a couple of points very clear.

- The County Executive has a history of proposing major changes for Westchester County Airport policies and agreements in late Fall. The timing of these proposals limit review and public scrutiny prior to a vote by the Board of Legislators.
- Once “privatized” the public / citizens have no voice in the plans of the Airport. The current County Executive has not been transparent concerning plans for the airport. This lack of transparency and community involvement would be exacerbated if the ownership of the Westchester County Airport is transferred under “privatization” to an investor group.
- It is important for citizens to get educated about the airport privatization proposal and be prepared to go to a Board of legislators meeting to make sure our concerns are addressed before a decision is made.

Jack Robinson / outgoing Chairperson of the Rye Brook Airport Advisory Council