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NOISE COMPLAINTS AROUND AIRPORT REDUCED

For Immediate Release

It's been quieter in the skies around Barnstable Municipal Airport in Hyannis. The number of noise complaints from neighbors fell by 120 percent last year contrasted to 2008, according to an airport staff analysis.

Airport Manager Roland "Bud" Breault credited the steep drop to several factors: an economy-driven reduction of about 10 percent in takeoffs and landings; Island Airlines' acquisition and use of a quieter plane - the Cessna Caravan - especially during early morning hours; implementation of an online aircraft tracking system and a community outreach program initiated by Airport Commission Chairman Daniel W. Santos.

Breault also credited aircraft pilots with increasingly-better compliance with the airport's voluntary noise guidelines. "At a recent meeting of the airlines' chief pilots and others, we agreed to continue emphasizing safety and noise abatement as we search for additional ways to be responsible members of the community," he added. By law, the airport may not restrict the times and routes of takeoffs and landings but does encourage quiet hours through guidelines developed in the past, with input from the community.

"We made substantial progress last year in our effort to be good neighbors," Santos said. "We have promoted open communications between concerned individuals and the airport, not only on the noise issue but on planning and environmental concerns."

Of the 224 complaints filed with the airport last year, more than 90 percent came from Yarmouth residents living less than half a mile from the airport, Breault reported. More than 80 percent of the 224 complaints came from one individual.

He said the airport will make a significant investment in new neighborhood noise monitoring equipment this summer.

To read the complete report, go online to the airport's web site:

<http://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/departments/airport/05/>.

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