

## BANKING/ FINANCE

# How the Hong Kong Airport Protest Shutdown Tarnishes Business Image

by Kelvin Chan

Mass flight cancellations at Hong Kong's airport disrupted one of the world's busiest air-transport hubs on Monday, causing chaos for tourists and business travelers and playing havoc with global airlines' flight schedules—a fresh escalation of the city's protest movement that threatens the Asian city's business-friendly image.

Thousands of supporters of the largely leaderless pro-democracy protest movement descended on the terminal in an effort to get the message out to the world about their struggle and the harsh tactics used by police. Many wore eye-patches to show their solidarity with a female protester who reportedly was hit in the eye by a projectile fired by police.

The protests, which have seen both sides adopt increasingly extreme tactics, had until Monday been mostly confined to neighborhoods across the former British colony. But the airport protest, which caused the cancellation of more than 150 flights, was a rare case of the movement having a direct impact on business travel and tourism — mainstays of the Asian business center's economy.

Analysts said it could make foreign investors think twice about setting up shop in Hong Kong, which has long prided itself as being Asia's leading business city with convenient air links for executives traveling across the region.

"The level of political risk associated with operating in Hong Kong is unprecedentedly high and the situation isn't simply a flash in the pan," said Hugo Brennan, principal Asia analyst at global risk consultancy Veritas Maplecroft.

"Those investors that haven't already done so are beginning to question the utility of being based in the territory. Others have already begun the search for more politically stable hubs in the Asia-Pacific," he said.

Adding to the protesters' anger, Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways told employees in a memo that the carrier has a "zero tolerance" for employees joining "illegal protests" and warned disciplinary consequences could include being fired.

A Cathay Pacific pilot was charged with rioting and two ground staff fired for misconduct, the airline said by email Monday. The moves came after the Chinese government warned Cathay Pacific, one of Hong Kong's best-known international brands, to bar its staff from participating in the protests — an escalation into the territory's business affairs.

Hong Kong officials warned that Monday's protest risked hurting the city's reputation as a travel and transport center.

"There is a serious impact on the operation of the airport," said Hong Kong's second-highest ranking government official, Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung. "We are an international airport hub



KYLE LAM/BLOOMBERG NEWS

The shutdown left thousands of business travelers stranded.

and it is also the trunk of Hong Kong's business."

There were already signs business travelers were looking elsewhere.

"Some customers have shown a decline in travel bookings to Hong Kong in June and July, as a number of countries have issued safety advisories urging travelers to exercise caution," said Julian Walker, a spokesman for travel management platform CWT, formerly known as Carlson Wagonlit.

Hong Kong's international airport was built on land reclaimed from the sea and opened in 1998, replacing an aging airstrip in the middle of the crowded, mountainous city.

The city's foreign investment promotion agency, InvestHK, boasts that Asia's key markets are "less than four hours away," a big selling point for the 8,000 international companies that have set up sales, operations and research and development centers in Hong Kong. More than 100 airlines allow "easy and efficient travel" to 190 locations, the agency says.

The airport handled 75.3 million passengers in 2018, making it the world's second-busiest international airport after Dubai, according to preliminary data from Airports Council International.

It's also the world's busiest air cargo hub, driven partly by demand from wealthy countries for Asian exports. More than 5 million metric tons of air freight passed through the airport last year, the council said.

"The situation in Hong Kong has now become risky in terms of potential consequences, but also threatens the reputation of the city as a safe and stable business hub served by a world class airport," said Loizos Heracleous, a professor of strategy at Britain's Warwick University.

The shutdown left thousands of business travelers stranded.

Joydeep Chakravarti, a software engineer whose connecting flight to San Francisco was canceled during a layover in Hong Kong, was on his way back from a weeklong work trip to India.

"I just want to get home," said Chakravarti, adding that he was reluctant to leave the airport because he wasn't prepared and had only his carry-on bag with laptop, charger and extra shirt.

"I have informed my boss about this," he said. "I have informed them I will probably not show up on time for work."

**Kelvin Chan reports for the Associated Press.**



## CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **Council Zoning Hearing** meeting on **Wednesday, August 28, 2019 beginning at 6:00 PM**, to consider the following text amendment to the City of Land Development Code. The City Council will consider this item for **FIRST READING**. This meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers** located at **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166**.

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

**ORDINANCE No. 2019-24**

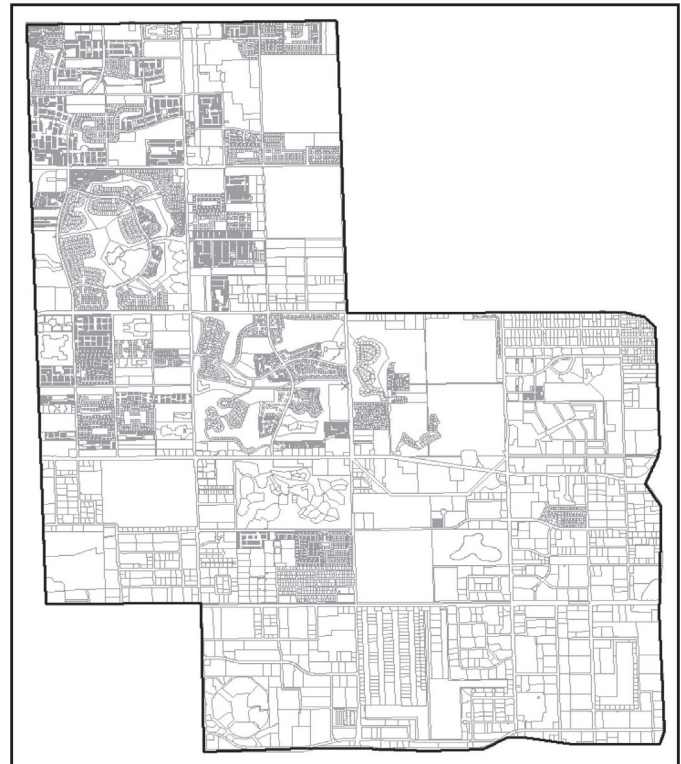
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF DORAL LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, CHAPTER 63 "GREEN BUILDING INCENTIVES" TO CLARIFY THE TIMELINE WITHIN WHICH GREEN CERTIFICATION MUST BE ACHIEVED FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION, AND TO PROVIDE FOR GREEN BUILDING BOND SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING A REPEALER PROVISION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**HEARING NO.:** 19-08-DOR-08

**APPLICANT:** City of Doral

**REQUEST:** Text amendments to the City of Doral Land Development Code, Chapter 63 – "Green Building Incentives", to clarify the timeline within which green certification must be achieved for new construction and to provide for green building bond submittal requirements.

**Location Map**



Information relating the subject application is on file and may be examined in the City of Doral, Planning and Zoning Department Located at **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL. 33166**. All persons are invited to appear at this meeting or be represented by an agent, or to express their views in writing addressed to the City Clerk, **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL. 33166**. Maps and other data pertaining to these applications are available for public inspection during normal business hours in City Hall. Any persons wishing to speak at a public hearing should register with the City Clerk prior to that item being heard. Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

**NOTE:** If you are not able to communicate, or are not comfortable expressing yourself, in the English language, it is your responsibility to bring with you an English-speaking interpreter when conducting business at the City of Doral during the zoning application process up to, and including, appearance at a hearing. This person may be a friend, relative or someone else. A minor cannot serve as a valid interpreter. The City of Doral DOES NOT provide interpretation services during the zoning application process or during any quasi-judicial proceeding.

**NOTA:** Si usted no está en capacidad de comunicarse, o no se siente cómodo al expresarse en inglés, es de su responsabilidad traer un intérprete del idioma inglés cuando trate asuntos públicos o de negocios con la Ciudad de Doral durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación, incluyendo su comparecencia a una audiencia. Esta persona puede ser un amigo, familiar o alguien que le haga la traducción durante su comparecencia a la audiencia. Un menor de edad no puede ser intérprete. La Ciudad de Doral NO suministra servicio de traducción durante ningún procedimiento durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación.

Connie Diaz, MMC  
City Clerk  
City of Doral

8/14

19-29/0000419081M