

# FALCON FIELD – OPINION & DATA

3/23/26 **MESA CITY COUNCIL VOTED FOR LANDING FEES**

3/2026 OPINION: **LETTER TO MESA CITY COUNCIL - RE: FALCON FIELD / Landing Fee**

Dear City of Mesa, Falcon Field Administration, and Elected Officials,

The aviation community stands united in strong opposition to the proposed landing fees at Falcon Field Airport (FFZ).

Falcon Field is more than just an airport — it is a federally funded, tax-supported public-use airport built on the foundation of American aviation history. Since its creation in 1941, Falcon Field has served as a vital training center for military and civilian pilots. Originally built to train pilots for World War II, Falcon Field continues that mission today by educating and preparing aviators who go on to serve our nation, our airlines, our aerospace companies, and our communities.

Falcon Field is a cornerstone of Mesa's identity, and it also provides:

- Hundreds of local jobs in aviation, maintenance, education, hospitality, and supporting industries providing a good tax base for the City of Mesa.
- Economic growth through its flight schools, businesses, charter operations, and aviation organizations
- Generational pathways for young people, aviation enthusiasts, and future pilots
- Global impact, with students and pilots coming from around the world to train here
- A home for general aviation, including local family-owned flight schools, veteran aviators, EAA members, warbird operators, non-profit youth aviation organizations, and the diverse pilots who make Falcon Field thrive.

The City of Mesa's proposal to implement landing fees is a direct threat to the accessibility and affordability of this historic airport. Landing fees do NOT improve the community — they limit it.

They would:

- Push away aviation businesses and economic opportunities
- Discourage general aviation use
- Burden those who already pay taxes that support this airport
- Create long-term harm to the general aviation community to an airport that has thrived without landing fees for over 80 years.

A Public Airport Should Remain Publicly Accessible. Falcon Field is federally funded and taxpayer supported. Implementing landing fees is harmful and counterproductive to the airport's mission. It places financial pressure on the very people who keep this airport alive: students, instructors, aviation families, local businesses, and visiting pilots.

Falcon Field has been training pilots for more than 80 years. Let's ensure it continues training pilots for 80 more.

Falcon Field contributes millions of dollars in economic activity to Mesa and the surrounding region. This impact should be measured professionally, transparently, and without bias. Only then can the community and its leaders fully understand how essential Falcon Field is to local commerce, aviation training, technical jobs, youth programs, tourism, and long-term economic development.

**The City of Mesa should begin reinvesting a portion of Falcon Field's proven economic impact back into the airport itself**, rather than placing additional financial pressure on the very users who create that impact. The pilots, flight schools, mechanics, tenants, visiting aircraft, and businesses at Falcon Field already serve as the economic engine that drives growth for the surrounding neighborhoods and the broader community.

General aviation has always lifted Mesa's economy—it should not be punished for it. Please protect Falcon Field, support aviation education and careers, and ensure that decisions about our airport are made responsibly, transparently, and with the full community in mind. History depends on us. The future depends on us. The community depends on us.

Sincerely,  
Andrew

--

**Andrew S. Pomerantz, Esq.**

Managing Partner / HOFFMAN & POMERANTZ, LLP, 4307 Redondo Beach Boulevard,  
Lawndale, California 90260-3342, (310) 371-2597 – Office

03/25/2026 **MESA City Council EMAIL ADDRESSES: Should you like to send an email -**  
mayor@mesaaz.gov  
district6@mesaaz.gov  
district4@mesaaz.gov  
district3@mesaaz.gov  
district1@mesaaz.gov  
aae.corinnenystrom@mesaaz.gov  
engage@az.gov  
clerk.info@mesaaz.gov

03/13/2026 **This was presented to the FFZ City Council by the FFZ Airport Manager.** The decision to institute these fees was made four to five months ago. IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED that the presentation below was designed to support instituting Landing Fees at Facon Field which stakeholders and GA Airport Advocates oppose.

See **PowerPoint Presentation Below:**



# Falcon Field Airport Update

Corinne Nystrom, A.A.E.  
Airport Director

March 5, 2026



COVER PAGE - FFZ FISCAL DATA PRESENTATION

**ENTIRE POWERPOINT (.PDF) PRESENTATION** Submitted by the Airport Manager Breaking Down FFZ Financial Data [CLICK HERE](#)