



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

August 8, 2014

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

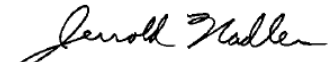
We write as representatives of communities affected by tourist helicopter traffic over New York City and New Jersey. We are concerned about the safety implications of unregulated tourist helicopter flights, as well as the helicopters' impact on quality of life in neighborhoods in both States that experience take-offs and landings or heavy flyover helicopter traffic. These concerns are especially relevant today, in light of what appears to be the dramatic increase in tourist helicopters utilizing the City owned Downtown Heliport. After a comprehensive examination of the Downtown Heliport and this industry, we have determined that there is a real lack of regulations and oversight involving tourist helicopter traffic, and in that context we strongly request that the City of New York and the New York City Economic Development Corporation institute a ban of all tourist helicopters utilizing the Downtown Heliport as soon as possible.

Recently elected officials from Brooklyn, Manhattan and Staten Island convened a meeting with your office to discuss this serious issue. Subsequently, elected officials from New Jersey joined the discussions supporting a ban on tourist helicopters both from the Downtown Heliport and heliports in New Jersey. Communities in both New York and New Jersey unfortunately have lived with the effects of helicopter traffic for decades, and have long advocated for a change in the way that city and federal agencies address helicopter traffic. At the meeting attended with your staff it was noted that many insurmountable obstacles to resolution of safety and noise concerns persist, including the lack of verifiable information of the daily volume of helicopters traveling in the Hudson corridor, inadequate mechanisms to track, receive, and respond to constituent complaints and the lack of any enforcement mechanism for agreed upon helicopter flights paths over New York City or New Jersey.

To address these real quality of life issues of residents of New York and New Jersey and to protect the safety of helicopter users we urge you to eliminate all tourist flights and traffic from the City owned Downtown Heliport as soon as possible. The status quo of largely unregulated flights that endanger tourists and disturb the peace in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Staten Island and New Jersey neighborhoods is unacceptable. We believe it is


the responsibility of the City as the owner of the Downtown Heliport to address these very real concerns and issues. We look forward to working with you to implement this solution.

Sincerely,



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



GALE A. BREWER
Manhattan Borough President


VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY
NYS Senate



HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR.
NYS Assembly



JOAN MILLMAN
NYS Assembly



MARGARET CHIN
New York City Council



MARK LEVINE
New York City Council



NYDIA VELAZQUEZ
Member of Congress



SHELDON SILVER
Speaker, NYS Assembly



DIANE SAVINO
NYS Senate



DEBORAH GLICK
NYS Assembly



FELIX W. ORTIZ
NYS Assembly



COREY JOHNSON
New York City Council


CARLOS MENCHACA
New York City Council



ERIC ADAMS
Brooklyn Borough President


BRAD HOYLMAN
State Senator


DANIEL SQUADRON
NYS Senate


RICHARD GOTTFRIED
NYS Assembly


LINDA ROSENTHAL
NYS Assembly


STEVE LEVIN
New York City Council


HELEN ROSENTHAL
New York City Council

cc: FAA Administrator, Michael P. Huerta
FAA Regional Administrator, Carmine Gallo