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NYC Helicopter
Sightseeing
Plan

THE
Five Borough
Economic Opportunity
PLAN

New York City Helicopter Sightseeing Plan

The creation of this plan has been agreed upon by the Eastern Region Helicopter Council and the five tour operators at Downtown Manhattan Heliport and are subject to a letter of agreement (LOA) signed with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This plan will be administered and enforced by NYCEDC. There will be penalties for non-compliance up to and including the revocation of a tour company's permit to operate from the Downtown Manhattan Heliport. This plan will be reviewed in October to determine its effectiveness.

- **Elimination of short tours:** The air tour operators have agreed to eliminate "short tour" flights. These flights, lasting four to eight minutes, represent approximately 15-20% of sightseeing flights at DMH. Short tours are also concentrated over New York Harbor and because of their brevity and flight path are major contributors to helicopter noise in the Brooklyn Heights area. These flights have been eliminated as of today.
- **Elimination of sightseeing tours over Central Park:** Tours over Central Park have been eliminated.
- **Elimination of sightseeing tours over the Empire State Building:** Tours over the Empire State Building have been eliminated.
- **Elimination of sightseeing flights over Brooklyn:** No sightseeing flights will be allowed to fly over Brooklyn.
- **Adoption of improved sightseeing tour routes:** Starting immediately, all air tour operators will follow either of the two agreed upon tours. All sightseeing helicopters will depart and approach the heliport from the south, maximizing aircraft distances from the Brooklyn Bridge Park. Helicopters will then follow the center of the Hudson River north to either 79th Street, or Yankee Stadium, before returning south center-west of the Hudson. All flights will transit the Hudson at 1,500 feet or above thereby mitigating noise heard from lower altitude flights.

- **Enhanced 311 protocol and data gathering:** Currently helicopter complaints are directed to NYCEDC. The process will now be streamlined at 311. The 311 operator will input the noise complaints which will improve NYCEDC's ability to track complaints and allow them to report data on noise complaints more effectively. Additionally, NYCEDC will establish a task force, along with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), FAA and the ERHC to develop a noise monitoring system in the Brooklyn Heights area and in other impacted communities.

In addition to the above plan, the installation of a fuel tank at heliport will reduce the number of operations by 10%. On a daily basis, over 35 operations are associated to fuel trips. The fuel tank is safe and FDNY, NYPD Counterterrorism, Marine One and Secret Service have evaluated the designs plans for the installation of the fuel tank and approved its location and operation.