

**Testimony Regarding Bills to Ban Sightseeing Helicopters
Presented to NYC Council's Committee on Environmental Protection
at City Hall on 12, 2015**

Good afternoon. I am Richard Loyd, representing Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, and I am here today to testify in favor of the two bills to ban sightseeing helicopter flights from using City-owned property.

Tourist helicopters are now operating seven days a week from the Downtown Manhattan Heliport, with approximately 300 flights every day. The constant din of helicopters has become the unwelcome soundtrack of Brooklyn Bridge Park. Earlier this year, we were filming a short promotional video in the park, and were unable to shoot for more than 30 seconds at a time because of the steady stream of helicopters. The unsettling part of this is that we didn't notice the noise at first—we had become used to the relentless aircraft uproar.

A park should be a quiet place—a haven where we can get away from the more aggressive sounds of the city. Speaking about the helicopters in a 2011 *Daily News* article, Michael Van Valkenburgh, the designer of Brooklyn Bridge Park said, “We have started to build a park that everyone seems to like quite a lot, at considerable public investment, and the noise is horrendous and disturbing.”

Four years later, the volume of tourist helicopters is worse than ever. Last month's opening of a new section of park at the end of Pier 6—which is directly across the water from the heliport—has made our constituents even more aware of the continuous roar of tourist helicopters.

They have reached out to us to voice their displeasure and frustration. On behalf of our neighbors and park visitors from around the world, we applaud City Council Members Carlos Menchaca, Helen Rosenthal and Margaret Chin for introducing these bills, and strongly support the ban to stop sightseeing helicopters from using City-owned property.

Thank you.