

Resolution of the City of Jersey City, N.J.

File No. Res. 25-290
Agenda No. 10.30
Approved: Apr 23 2025



RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) AND OTHER RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES, AS WELL AS NEW JERSEY STATE AGENCIES TO IMMEDIATELY REVIEW AND PROHIBIT LOW-FLYING HELICOPTER TRAFFIC OVER RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF JERSEY CITY AND HOBOKEN, AND URGE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF BILL A1371 IN THE NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND URGE CORRESPONDING LEGISLATION IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE SENATE

COUNCIL offered and moved adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2025 a sightseeing helicopter operating under tail number N216MH took off from a heliport in downtown Manhattan and crashed into the Hudson River approximately 75 feet from the New Jersey bank of the Hudson River adjacent to the Newport neighborhood of Jersey City, resulting in a tragic and preventable deaths of the pilot and the family of five who chartered the helicopter sightseeing tour; and

WHEREAS, one of New York City's two City-owned heliports alone is responsible for 30,000 nonessential sightseeing flights each year; and

WHEREAS, since 1970, 30 separate helicopters have plunged from the skies over the New York metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the catastrophic helicopter crash last Friday could have been even more tragic, as this helicopter had flown above and crashed near densely populated areas in Jersey City and Hoboken, including schools and daycare centers, before crashing just feet from the banks of the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, Jersey City and Hoboken have seen a significant and concerning increase in low-flying non-essential helicopter traffic operating under Visual Flight Rules (VFR), particularly from commuter and tourist flights which market sightseeing services and "doors-off" photography tours; and

WHEREAS, under current FAA guidelines, helicopters are permitted to fly at altitudes and along routes at the pilot's discretion so long as pilots deem it "safe," with minimal oversight, enforcement, or prescribed minimum altitudes—which is particularly troubling for flights operating over densely populated urban environments; and

WHEREAS, these non-essential helicopters routinely fly at dangerously low altitudes—sometimes as low as 50–300 feet above residential rooftops—creating serious risks to public safety, health, and quality of life, generating significant noise, diesel jet pollution, and psychological stress for Hoboken and Jersey City residents; and

WHEREAS, low flying tourist helicopters relentlessly fly over the Jersey City Heights area at low altitudes, disturbing residents, causing trauma and triggering PTSD in veterans, and inhibiting the auditory senses of both adults and children that attend St. Joseph's School of the Blind in the Jersey City Heights area; and

WHEREAS, the pattern of non-essential low-altitude helicopter traffic over our communities compromises the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of residents of Jersey City and Hoboken, making our communities part of the daily flight path for potential aircraft disasters; and

WHEREAS, when a helicopter collided with a commercial airliner in Washington, D.C., in January, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) quickly banned all non-essential helicopters over the area; and

WHEREAS, the FAA should likewise immediately ban all non-essential helicopters over the New York City region in the wake of last Friday's tragic tourist helicopter crash; and

WHEREAS, should the FAA fail to immediately ban all non-essential helicopters over the New York City region, New York City Mayor Eric Adams and the New York City Economic Development Corporation should without delay suspend all sightseeing and commuter helicopters from its two City-owned and managed heliports (Downtown Skyport - formerly Downtown Manhattan Heliport, and the East 34th Street Heliport); and

WHEREAS, the New York City Council should take immediate action to ban non-essential helicopter flights over the New York City region from the two City-owned and managed heliports, if Mayor Eric Adams refuses to act; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River Park Trust should immediately end commuter flight (Blade) operations from the New York City's West 30th Street Heliport; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Jersey City and Hoboken have spoken out about these concerns for years alongside grassroots organisations like **STOP THE CHOP** seeking to highlight these issues with federal and state legislators with respect to non-essential helicopter traffic and flight paths over our community that originate from the Kearny HHI Heliport and other New Jersey facilities, and the need for federal and state action to protect their safety and well-being; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CITY OF JERSEY CITY formally calls upon:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to immediately ban all non-essential helicopters over the New York City region in the wake of last Friday's tragic tourist helicopter crash;

Resolution Calling on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Other Relevant Federal Agencies, as well as New Jersey State Agencies to Immediately Review and Prohibit Low-Flying Helicopter Traffic Over Residential Areas of Jersey City and Hoboken, and Urge Immediate Passage of Bill A1371 in the New Jersey General Assembly and Urge Corresponding Legislation in the New Jersey State Senate

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and the New York City Economic Development Corporation to, without delay, suspend all sightseeing and commuter helicopters from its two City-owned and managed heliports, if the FAA fails to immediately ban all non-essential helicopters over the New York City region.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to launch a full investigation into the root causes of the recent helicopter crash and the overall safety of non-essential helicopter operations over populated New Jersey cities;

The FAA to immediately re-evaluate regulations governing low-flying helicopter traffic under VFR, and to establish mandatory minimum altitudes and prohibit non-essential helicopter operations from operating over densely populated residential neighborhoods;

The FAA and U.S. Department of Transportation to work with the City of Jersey City, Hoboken, the State of New Jersey, and elected officials to prohibit all non-essential helicopter traffic over densely populated residential areas;

The NJ State Legislature, particularly the Assembly Committee on Tourism, Gaming, and the Arts, to immediately hear and advance Bill A1371, which would restrict sightseeing helicopters from using New Jersey heliports, and urge for corresponding legislation to be advanced by the New Jersey State Senate;

The operators of Kearny HHI Heliport and other New Jersey operators of airports for non-essential helicopter operations to immediately alter helicopter flight paths to avoid all densely populated residential communities and prioritise public safety above commercial tourism interests, and if not have the State of New Jersey immediately review their heliport license for these legitimate safety concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the FAA, NTSB, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy, FAA Acting Administrator Chris Rocheleau, U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Andy Kim, Congressman Rob Menendez, Governor Phil Murphy, the NJ Assembly Committee on Tourism, Gaming, and the Arts, Hudson County Executive Craig Guy, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, The New York City Council, The New York Economic Development Corporation, The Hudson River Park Trust, and Jeff Hyman, CEO of the Kearny HHI Heliport.

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APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM



Business Administrator



Corporation Counsel

☐ Certification Required

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE – Apr 23														8-0
	AYE	NAY	N.V.	Absent		AYE	NAY	N.V.	Absent		AYE	NAY	N.V.	Absent
RIDLEY	✓				SALEH	✓				DEGISE	✓			
PRINZ-AREY					SOLOMON	✓				RIVERA	✓			
BOGGIANO	✓				GILMORE	✓				WATTERMANN, PRES	✓			

N.V. –
(Abstain)

Adopted at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey.



President of Council



City Clerk

Resolution Calling on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Other Relevant Federal Agencies, as well as New Jersey State Agencies to Immediately Review and Prohibit Low-Flying Helicopter Traffic Over Residential Areas of Jersey City and Hoboken, and Urge Immediate Passage of Bill A1371 in the New Jersey General Assembly and Urge Corresponding Legislation in the New Jersey State Senate

RESOLUTION FACT SHEET -

This summary sheet is to be attached to the front of any resolution that is submitted for Council consideration. Incomplete or vague fact sheets will be returned with the resolution.

Project Manager

Yousef Saleh, Councilperson		(201) 547-6817	YSALEH@JCNJ.ORG
Department	Municipal Council		
Division	Municipal Council		

Note: Project Manager must be available by phone during agenda meeting (Wednesday prior to council meeting @ 1:00 p.m.)

Meeting	Regular Meeting of Municipal Council - Apr 23 2025
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Purpose

Resolution calling on FAA and the State of NJ to ban nonessential helicopter traffic across Hoboken and Jersey City

Approved by
John Metro, Business Administrator

Status:
Approved - Apr 17 2025