

SPONSORED BY: SECONDED BY: 

**CITY OF HOBOKEN
RESOLUTION NO.:**

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE FEDERAL AVIATION
ADMINISTRATION (FAA) AND OTHER RELEVANT FEDERAL
AGENCIES TO IMMEDIATELY PROHIBIT HELICOPTER TRAFFIC
OVER AND NEAR RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF HOBOKEN AND JERSEY
CITY**

1. **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 tragic and preventable deaths of the pilot and the family of five who were passengers on the helicopter sightseeing tour; and
2. **WHEREAS**, one of New York City's two City-owned heliports alone is responsible for approximately 30,000 nonessential sightseeing flights each year; and
3. **WHEREAS**, since 1970, 30 separate helicopters have plunged from the skies over the New York metropolitan area; and
4. **WHEREAS**, the catastrophic helicopter crash last Thursday could have been even more tragic, if this helicopter had flown above and crashed into densely populated areas in Hoboken and Jersey City, including schools and daycare centers; and
5. **WHEREAS**, Hoboken and Jersey City have seen a significant and concerning increase in low-flying nonessential helicopter traffic operating under Visual Flight Rules (VFR), particularly from commuter and tourist flights that market sightseeing services and "doors-off shoe selfies" photography tours; and
6. **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
7. **WHEREAS**, these nonessential helicopters routinely fly at dangerously low altitudes—sometimes as low as 200–300 feet above residential rooftops—creating serious risks to public safety, health, and quality of life, generating significant noise, air pollution, and psychological stress for Hoboken and Jersey City residents; and
8. **WHEREAS**, the pattern of nonessential low-altitude helicopter traffic over our communities compromises the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of residents of Hoboken and Jersey City, making our communities part of the daily flight path for potential aircraft disasters; and

9. **WHEREAS**, when a helicopter collided with a commercial airliner in Washington, DC, in January 2025, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) quickly banned all nonessential helicopters over the area; and

10. **WHEREAS**, the FAA should likewise immediately ban all nonessential helicopters over the New York City region in the wake of last Thursday's tragic tourist helicopter crash; and

11. **WHEREAS**, should the FAA fail to immediately ban all nonessential 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

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

13. **WHEREAS**, the Hudson River Park Trust should immediately end commuter flight (e.g., Blade) operations from West 30th Street Heliport in New York City; and

14. **WHEREAS**, elected representatives of Hoboken and Jersey City have spoken out about these concerns for years seeking to highlight these issues with federal and state legislators with respect to nonessential 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;

15. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Hoboken formally calls upon:

1. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to immediately ban all nonessential helicopters over the New York City region in the wake of last Thursday's tragic tourist helicopter crash;

2. 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 nonessential helicopters over the New York City region.

3. 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 nonessential helicopter operations overpopulated New Jersey cities;

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

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

6. 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;

7. The operators of Kearny HHI Heliport and other operators of New Jersey airports for nonessential helicopter operations to ban said nonessential helicopter flights or immediately alter helicopter flight paths to avoid all densely populated residential communities and prioritize public safety above commercial tourism interests.

16. 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 Jr., 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, Kearny, New Jersey Mayor Carol Jean Doyle, Robert Neu, Owner of River Terminal Development and Jeff Hyman, CEO of the Kearny HHI Heliport.

Meeting Date: April 16, 2025

APPROVED:

JASON FREEMAN
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BRIAN ALOIA, ESQ.
CORPORATION COUNSEL



✓ Vote Record - CC - Resolution					
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain/Alternate	Absent
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Carried	Phil Cohen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tiffanie Fisher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Emily Jabbour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Paul Presinzano	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Joe Quintero	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ruben Ramos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Michael Russo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	James Doyle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBOKEN, N.J.
AT A MEETING HELD ON: 4/16/2025


CITY CLERK