

CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

November 14, 2019

Hon. Brad Hoylman, State Senator
322 Eighth Avenue
Suite 1700
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Richard Gottfried, State Assembly Member
214 W. 29th Street
Suite 1002
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker of New York City Council
224 West 30th Street
Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Re: West Side Heliport

Dear Senator Hoylman, Assembly Member Gottfried and Speaker Johnson,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”), on the recommendation of its Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee, voted 35 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to ask the State and City of New York to close the West Side Heliport at West 30th Street in Hudson River Park (the “Park”). If the State and City require a heliport on the West Side of Manhattan for emergency use only, we ask that a new location be found.

Until the heliport is closed, we have asked separately of our Federal representatives, Jerrold Nadler and Carolyn Maloney, to ask the FAA to ban all non-essential helicopter flights over Manhattan.

The issue of the continued presence of the heliport and its negative impact area has been ongoing since the heliport was established on the west side in 1956 but has been exacerbated since the

opening of the Park. Indeed, in contravention of the community's wishes, the operator of the heliport constantly seeks to EXPAND the usage of helicopters for non-essential flights.

The heliport abuts the most heavily used bike and pedestrian paths in the United States raising several concerns:

- Air and noise pollution from landings and take-offs, as well as helicopters flying overhead.
- Air and noise pollution from helicopters idling on the ground.
- Air pollution from vehicles idling on the heliport parking lot.
- The safety of bike riders and pedestrians as vehicles cross the bike and pedestrian paths to enter the heliport parking lot.
- No observable security procedures for vehicles entering the parking lot.

It has been the long-standing opinion of Manhattan Community Board 4 that the presence of the West Side Heliport in Hudson River Park is completely at odds with the Park's intended purpose to provide visitors to the park with green space, a peaceful refuge and unobstructed views of the Hudson River. As work continues to complete the park, the time has come for our state and city officials to make a concerted effort to close the heliport and put an end to the negative impact that the heliport is having on so many for the convenience of so few.


Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Lowell Kern
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment
Committee



Maarten de Kadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment
Committee

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, U.S. Congress
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, U.S. Congress
Madelyn Wils, President, Hudson River Park Trust