



Lowell D. Kern
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
424 W. 33rd Street, Suite 580 New York, NY 10001
tel: 212-736-4536
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August 5, 2021

Hon. Jerrold Nadler
United States Representative
201 Varick Street, Suite 669
New York, NY 10014

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

Hon. Gale Brewer
Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

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

Hon. Corey Johnson
Speaker, NYC Council
224 W. 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Re: 30th Street Heliport in Hudson River Park

Dear Honorables Nadler, Brewer, Johnson, Hoylman and Gottfried:

On June 10, 2021, The Hudson River Park Trust met with Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee (WPE) to discuss the ongoing issues of the West Side Heliport, located at 30th Street in the Hudson River Park (HRPK). MCB4 last wrote to you all about the Heliport in November of 2019 (letter attached), reiterating that MCB4 has voted unanimously to close that facility, or if mandated as a necessity, to be used only for emergency purposes. Since that time, no actions have been taken regarding our specific requests or the concerns of the community.

There is a long history of difficulty with the heliport at this location and the State Supreme Court ruling from over a decade ago has not been adhered to.

The Heliport is a significant source of pollution, noise, and safety issues. The situation has been exacerbated to an intolerable and dangerous level since the establishment of a Park where people

ride their bikes, picnic, stroll and enjoy alongside a boom in commuter helicopter flights. Toxic fumes fill the air and linger, people cannot talk over the noise, and some cyclists have reportedly been blown off their bicycles by the force of the winds created on take-offs and landings. WPE raised additional concerns and observations at the June 10 meeting, which should be addressed immediately. Listed below are the points referenced in the November 2019 letter, as well as additional requests. MCB4, at its July 28th Full Board meeting by a vote of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible to vote¹, respectfully requests immediate attention to these matters.

- Air and noise pollution from landings and take-offs, as well as helicopters flying overhead
- Air and noise pollution from helicopters idling
- Air pollution from vehicles idling on the heliport parking lot²
- 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

New observations:

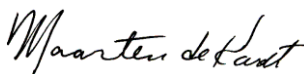
- Request an immediate safety and security survey by NYPD/Terrorism Task Force
- Implement helicopter idling regulations
- The 8,000-gallon fuel tank is unguarded and exposed, located mere feet from spinning helicopter blades. Is this legal?

The Heliport is in direct conflict with Hudson River Park. MCB4 believes there should be no commercial use of helicopters within the Hudson River Park. Emergency use for the short term is understandable, with a long-term goal of shifting emergency use to an anchored barge in the Hudson. We are appealing to you to address these concerns through your respective levels of government and advocacy and make a concerted effort to close the heliport.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks, & Environment Committee



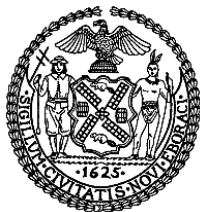
Maarten deKadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

Enclosure

cc: Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

¹ Lowell D. Kern is a member of the Hudson River Park Trust Board and was present, but not eligible to vote.

² Recommend that all parking and drop offs be located across the highway with no access to the heliport via the HRP.



CITY OF NEW YORK

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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



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