



**Lowell D. Kern**  
Chair

**Jesse Bodine**  
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**  
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August 5, 2021

Noreen Doyle  
President  
Hudson River Park Trust  
Pier 40  
New York, NY 10003

**Re: Heliport Safety and Future Removal**

Dear President Doyle:

Thank you for meeting with the Waterfront, Parks, and Environment Committee on June 10, 2021. As you know, the long-term goal of Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) is the closing of the Heliport on West 30<sup>th</sup> Street inside the Hudson River Park (HRP). In the interim, in the interest of the entire community and park goers, there are a number of safety and quality of life issues that your tenant, Air Pegasus Heliport, Inc., needs to address. MCB4 wrote directly to Air Pegasus in December 2020 and the HRPT was copied and to date, none of the issues raised have been addressed.

There is a long history of difficulty with the Heliport given its location inside the Hudson River Park and the State Supreme Court ruling from over a decade ago has not been adhered to.

MCB4, at its July 28<sup>th</sup> Full Board meeting by a vote of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible to vote<sup>1</sup>, respectfully requests that your tenant comply immediately with the following recommendations:

- Please eliminate vehicular parking or drop offs in the HRP area and require that the parking and drop off facility be moved across the Westside Highway with no access to the Heliport via the HRP. Cars block the greenway, pedestrian walkway, and idle while waiting for their passengers. The air pollution from vehicles idling, in addition to the highly toxic pollutants from the helicopters, is intolerable. This will also improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists as it will remove a vehicle conflict from the greenway.

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

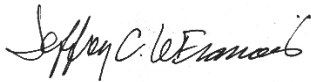
- In an effort to lessen the public's exposure to air and noise pollution from the helicopters, given the landing pad's close proximity to the public walkway and greenway, helicopters should not be allowed to idle. Engines should be shut down after five minutes of arrival onto the landing pad and restarted five minutes prior to taking off.
- The 8,000-gallon fuel tank is unguarded and exposed, a disaster waiting to happen. Is this permitted under current regulations?

We remain grateful for HRPT's open dialog and cooperation in working on all issues that affect our community. We are appealing to you to address these concerns with Air Pegasus and fix what can be fixed for the short term, while we pursue our efforts for permanent closure of the facility.

We believe the pollution issues and safety issues cannot be over emphasized and are in the interest of moving this to a resolution, we are copying the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



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



Maarten deKadt  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

CC: Hon. Jerry Nadler, U.S. Representative  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator  
Hon. Richard Gottfried, NYS Assembly Member  
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, NYC Council  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation