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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 5223  
Sherman Oaks, California 91413  
Information: (818) 377-4590  
[www.shermanoaks914.com](http://www.shermanoaks914.com)

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March 6, 2013

Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Subject: SOHA Support of City Council Resolution 13-0002-S26 Supporting Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013**

**Reference: March 6, 2013 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 13**

Dear City Council Members:

The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association strongly supports City Council Resolution 13-0002-S26 supporting the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013. SOHA urges the City Council to pass this resolution.

Sherman Oaks is one of many helicopter noise hot spots in Los Angeles. We have flatlands, hillsides, celebrities, and freeways, including the ultra-busy I-405/I-101 intersection. As chair of SOHA's Helicopter Noise Committee, I receive hundreds of helicopter noise complaints each year.

Because this is a critical issue for our community, SOHA has been working for several years to find avenues for reducing noise from non-emergency and non-governmental helicopters. In 2011 and 2012, we worked with Congressman Berman's office on his landmark HR 2677 legislation, the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011. SOHA was instrumental in helping to organize Congressman Berman's very successful August 2012 public hearing on helicopter noise. This hearing was held at Sherman Oaks' Millikan Middle School and attended by more than 400 outraged citizens from across Los Angeles County. In 2012 and 2013, we worked with Congressman Schiff's office as they drafted HR 456, the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013, the House legislation complementary to the Senate's S 208.

In addition to our support of legislation, we are also working with several other homeowner and community groups to reduce helicopter noise. These groups represent areas including Griffith Park, Beachwood Canyon, Encino, Tarzana, the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council, the Hollywood Sign, the Hollywood Bowl, and several South Bay communities. In December 2012, twelve individuals from these groups met with the Federal Aviation Administration as part of the FAA's current study on helicopter noise in Los Angeles. We presented critical issues concerning helicopter noise and provided sixteen recommendations for reducing the noise. The FAA will complete this study in May 2013 and release a report documenting their findings. We are anxiously awaiting the FAA's positive recommendations to help solve the helicopter noise challenge.

**SOHA March 6, 2013 Support of City Council Resolution 13-0002-S26**

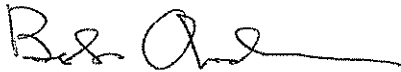
Our groups have also started meeting with helicopter pilots and operators to help foster voluntary methods for reducing helicopter noise. The initial meeting was held in Van Nuys in February 2013 and attended by community members, pilots, and FAA representatives, including the new Acting Regional FAA Administrator. The meeting was primarily a forum to explain and understand helicopter noise challenges from both sides of the fence, and served to open lines of communication and foster working together.

There is one important fact that has come to light from all of these efforts. Even though there are thousands of helicopter noise complaints across the county, there is no centralized, resident friendly, easy-to-use system to collect and analyze these complaints. The FAA has no complaint system and has no near-term plans for such a system. Without some way to collect complaints and document the location and magnitude of helicopter noise problems, it is hard to visualize how the problems can be solved. The public sees no real avenue for their complaints and becomes frustrated. Therefore, SOHA and other concerned community and helicopter groups have begun working together to determine how and when such a complaint system could be effectively implemented in Los Angeles. This will not solve the overall problem of helicopter noise, but will go a long way to fully understanding the problem and developing the long-term solutions essential to helping communities experience a better quality of life.

The Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013 is a critical part of a multi-pronged approach to reducing this challenge to our communities. Please support and pass Resolution 13-0002-S26 supporting the Noise Relief Act.

For any questions, please contact me at 213-364-7470 or [BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com](mailto:BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com).

Thank you.



Bob Anderson  
Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association  
Member, Board of Directors  
Chair, Helicopter Noise Committee

cc: Councilman Paul Krekorian, Council District 2  
Councilman Tom LaBonge, Council District 4  
Councilman Paul Koretz, Council District 5  
Council Eric Garcetti, Council District 13