

Tarzana Property Owners Association

March 17, 2016

Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
Councilmember Jose Huizar
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

The Los Angeles area is plagued by noisy, low flying helicopters that impact schools, residences, and other noise sensitive areas. These low flying helicopters also pose a safety hazard as the low flight altitude proves less time for successful autorotation landings in the case of engine failure. An additional hazard is driver and pedestrian distraction when the low flying helicopters pass overhead or nearby. The Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC) has been meeting with the FAA and the helicopter industry for more than two years in an attempt to agree upon mitigation measures. After over 60 meetings, we are at an impasse with no discernable progress in noise mitigation. As a result, the LAAHNC has provided the FAA with the four petition noted below to establish the regulations required to mitigate the low flying helicopter impact:.

Petition No. 01 – Helicopter Minimum Altitudes – Require non-emergency helicopters to fly at least 2,000 feet above ground level, with exceptions for weather or extenuating circumstances.

Petition No. 02 – Helicopter Hover/Orbit Restrictions – Require media helicopters to hover/orbit in one location for five minutes or less in any one-hour period, and tour helicopters to hover/orbit for three minutes or less, with exceptions for weather or extenuating circumstances.

Petition No. 03 – Mandatory Media Helicopter Pooling – Require media helicopters to plan for pooling coverage during planned and unplanned incidents.

Petition No. 04 – Shore Line Route – Require helicopters flying along the coastline to fly at least one-half mile offshore to reduce noise onshore.

Several municipalities in Los Angeles County have formally supported our petitions. Councilman Koretz introduced the motion now before your committee to support administrative action by the FAA to adopt Special Federal Aviation Regulations that would reduce helicopter noise in Los Angeles County as soon as possible. The Tarzana Property Owners Association strongly urges the Rules, Elections, InterGovernmental Relations & Neighborhoods Committee to support the motion by Councilman Koretz and call on the FAA to enact regulations to mitigate the impact of helicopters on our area.

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