

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: February 24, 2016

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 15-0002-S125
Assignment No: 16-02-0146

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz-Ryu) to SUPPORT FAA action.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz-Ryu) to include in the City's 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program, SUPPORT for administrative action by the FAA to adopt Special Federal Aviation Regulations that would reduce helicopter noise in Los Angeles County.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Koretz-Ryu), introduced February 10, 2016, indicates that excessive noise pollution from helicopters hovering over residential areas in the Los Angeles Basin is detrimental to health and largely caused by media coverage on celebrities and popular events rather than law enforcement. State and local governments do not have the authority to regulate aircraft flight operations. Instead, excessive noise pollution must be addressed by applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) orders and regulations. However, according to the Resolution, nearly three years of collaboration between the FAA, helicopter operators, and resident groups have not resulted in any FAA action aimed at reducing helicopter noise. The Resolution therefore requests that the City SUPPORT administrative action by the FAA to adopt Special Federal Aviation Regulations that would reduce helicopter noise in Los Angeles County.

BACKGROUND

Despite failed attempts at passing legislation that would reduce helicopter noise pollution in 2011 and 2013, Section 119D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (HR 3547) was subsequently enacted to direct the FAA to:

- evaluate and adjust existing helicopter routes to lessen impact of noise pollution;
- analyze whether helicopters could safely fly at higher altitudes;
- develop best practices for helicopter hovering and news gathering;
- conduct outreach to helicopter pilots to increase awareness of noise sensitive areas and policies;
- develop a noise complaint system with local stakeholders; and
- engage collaboratively with community representatives and helicopter operations in the Los Angeles County area.

The legislation further directed that if there was no significant progress in undertaking these actions within a year, the FAA would be required to begin a regulatory process related to the

impact of helicopter use on the quality of life and safety of the people of Los Angeles County. Prior to the enactment of this legislation, the FAA began community outreach meetings in 2012 to engage Los Angeles County residents concerned about helicopter noise pollution in response to requests by Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and other Congress members. Yet, well past the legislation's one year deadline of January 2015, these efforts have not yielded any significant progress by the FAA to reduce the impact of excessive helicopter noise in Los Angeles County.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah Choi".

Deborah Choi
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Koretz-Ryu)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, excessive noise is detrimental to health and considered to be a major source of stress in urban settings; and

WHEREAS, intrusive noise pollution from helicopters hovering over residential areas in the Los Angeles Basin is largely caused by media coverage on celebrities and popular events rather than law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Section 119D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (HR 3547) requires the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to achieve reductions in helicopter noise throughout the Los Angeles Basin by 2015; and

WHEREAS, nearly two years after the enactment of HR 3547, the FAA is still unsuccessful in meeting the directives in the bill; and

WHEREAS, nearly three years of collaboration between the FAA, helicopter operators, and Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition, an ad hoc group of residents formed to represent residents' interests in reducing helicopter noise, have not resulted in any agreement among stakeholders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for administrative action by the FAA to adopt Special Federal Aviation Regulations that would reduce helicopter noise in Los Angeles County as soon as possible.

PRESENTED BY: 
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 


FEB 10 2016