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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

February 25, 2026

Hon. Zohran Mamdani
Mayor of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. United States Representative Jerry Nadler
12th Congressional District Representative
201 Varick Street, Suite 669
New York, NY 10014

RE: Ban on Non-Essential Helicopter Flights

Dear Mayor Mamdani and Representative Nadler,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on February 18, 2026, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 29 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 2 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS, Stop the Chop NY/NJ is advocating for a ban on non-essential helicopter flights over New York City; and

WHEREAS, helicopter noise increasingly impacts residents across New York City, including Community District 8; and

WHEREAS, three heliports in Manhattan are owned by taxpayers and generate significant helicopter traffic, including the Downtown Skyport with approximately 35,000 operations per year; and

WHEREAS, New York City Local Law 64 was passed into law in 2025 to regulate noisy helicopters, but does not take effect until December 2029; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has authority to close the two East River city-owned heliports, which would eliminate approximately half of metropolitan area helicopter flights; and

WHEREAS, Federal legislation has been introduced that would ban non-essential helicopter flights within 20 miles of the Statue of Liberty, with bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, proposed bans would not affect news, police, medical, military, or government helicopters, only tourist and charter flights; and

WHEREAS, helicopter crashes pose safety risks to New York City residents;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan supports the recommendations of Stop the Chop NY/NJ and calls on the mayor to take actions within his

authority regarding city-owned heliports to reduce non-essential helicopter use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan supports federal legislation to ban non-essential helicopter flights within 20 miles of the Statue of Liberty.

Please advise our office of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

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Chair

Craig Lader and Charles Warren

Craig Lader and Charles Warren
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member, 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member, 76th Assembly District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Virginia Maloney, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Elsie Encarnacion, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District