

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 20, 2008**

Contact: A. J. Pietrantone or Matthew Washington (FoHRP)

(212) 757-0981

[aj@fohrp.org](mailto:aj@fohrp.org)

[matthew@fohrp.org](mailto:matthew@fohrp.org)

Daniel Alterman (Alterman & Boop)

(212) 226-2800

[d.alterman@altermanboop.com](mailto:d.alterman@altermanboop.com)

## **FRIENDS OF HUDSON RIVER PARK ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT ON ENDING TOURIST FLIGHTS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> STREET HELIPORT BY APRIL 2010**

***After April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, 30<sup>th</sup> Street Heliport to be Used Only for Commercial,  
Government or Emergency Take-offs and Landings***

Friends of Hudson River Park (FoHRP) today announced that they had reached an agreement with the Hudson River Park Trust, Air Pegasus Heliport, Inc. and Liberty Helicopters, Inc. to end tourist flights at the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Heliport by April 2010. The agreement also calls for the number of tourist helicopter excursions to be reduced to 25,000 between June 2008 and May 2009 and to 12,500 between May 2009 and April 2010. FOHRP, along with other plaintiffs from the community had sought an injunction against the operators for conducting activity outlawed in the Hudson River Park Act of 1998.

“This is an historic day for Hudson River Park,” said FoHRP Co-Chair Douglas Durst. “Reducing the number of helicopter flights in the Park will greatly improve the experience of those who use the park, and this agreement is an important milestone toward the Park’s completion. I wish to thank all those who worked to forge this agreement including Hudson River Park Trust, Liberty Helicopters, Inc., Air Pegasus Heliport, Inc. and especially our counsels Daniel Alterman and Arlene Boop, and former Friends President Al Butzel.”

“For too long, park users have been assaulted by dust, wind and noise from the Heliport,” added FoHRP Co-Chair and long-time community activist Ross Graham. “Eliminating tourist flights and, eventually, moving the Heliport is a great step forward in bringing the Park in conformance to its intended use. This will be a significant improvement in the quality of life for everyone on the far West Side.”

The agreement also contains the following:

- A commitment from the operators of the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Heliport to cease all Helicopter operation by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at 30<sup>th</sup> Street provided a new location for Helicopter operations has been established. FOHRP will work with the City, State and Federal

Governments to secure approval of a new Heliport for commercial, government and emergency operations on Pier 72.

- By July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 Air Pegasus Heliport, Inc. will erect new buffers around the unprotected areas of the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Heliport with the goal of substantially reducing the ambient noise, fumes, and wind gusts from the Heliport that reach Hudson River Park.
- All flight plans will also be modified so that helicopters taking off will head directly west to the center of the Hudson River and all helicopters will approach from the west to minimize interfering with the Park, and surrounding neighborhoods. Except during take offs and landings no tourism flight made from the Heliport shall approach any closer to the western edge of the Hudson River Park and Battery Park City than the middle of the Hudson River.
- The maximum number of all operations at the 30th Street shall be capped each year so that reduced tourist flights are not replaced by other uses.
- Air Pegasus Heliport, Inc. agrees that it will not actively market or promote the Heliport in an attempt to increase non-tourism operations.
- Commencing on June 1, 2009, tourism operations may be conducted only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Helicopters using the 30th Street Heliport shall make every effort to keep idling time to a minimum, and all helicopters departing from the Heliport shall not start their engines or rotors more than five minutes before they take off

“I congratulate the Friends and the heliport operators on their ability to reach a sensible and well crafted solution,” said Diana Taylor, Chair of the Hudson River Park Trust Board of Directors. “With this mutually beneficial settlement of a very thorny and complicated issue, I believe this is truly a case of being handed lemons and making lemonade. We preserve the most essential business, governmental and emergency needs for a west side heliport while turning the facility itself into a friendlier neighbor to the park.

Friends of Hudson River Park, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1999 is the only community-based organization exclusively dedicated to the creation and preservation of the entire Hudson River Park for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Its mission is to support and maintain the park as a world-class park for everyone, and represents thousands of supporting organizations and individuals who share its goals.