



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Legal Agreement to End Tourist Flights at 30th St. Heliport, Wednesday March 31st

Friends of Hudson River Park Action Brings Quiet & Safety to the City's World-Class Waterfront Park

(March 24, 2010 – New York) Friends of Hudson River Park today announced that its agreement with the Hudson River Park Trust, Air Pegasus Heliport, Inc. and Liberty Helicopters, Inc. to end tourist flights at the 30th Street Heliport will go into effect on Thursday, April first. After April first, the Heliport can only be used for commercial, government, or emergency take-offs and landings.

"For far too long, Park users have been continually assaulted by noise, fumes, wind, and dust from the Heliport," said Friends of Hudson River Park Executive Director, A.J. Pietrantone. "Eliminating tourist flights is a great step forward in improving the quality of life for everyone that uses and enjoys the Park, as well as its surrounding neighborhoods."

Helicopter tourism is banned by the Hudson River Park Act of 1998, but had not been adhered to by the Heliport operators. In 2007, Friends of Hudson River Park filed legal action to stop the sightseeing flights operating out of the Park, to bring the Heliport into compliance with the 1998 law, which created Hudson River Park.

An agreement was reached in June of 2008 to phase-out the tourist flights, which also included a cap on non-tourist flights at then-existing levels, and a commitment from the operators of the Heliport to cease all helicopter operations by December 31st, 2012 at 30th Street, provided a new location for helicopter operations has been established. The Hudson River Park Act requires a Heliport to be beyond the upland area of the Park, such as at the end of a pier or on a barge, and only for non-tourist operations.

"Under the law establishing Hudson River Park, a heliport is simply incompatible with the Park," said Pietrantone. "People go to the Park looking for an oasis in our city's urban environment. Now, with the decreased noise and disruption from helicopter tourism, everyone's Park experience will be greatly improved, marking a major milestone in the completion of Hudson River Park. We look forward to the eventual relocation of the Heliport from this area."

Construction of the five-mile-long park began in 1999 after decades of planning and community input. The Park is now nearly 80% finished and requires approximately \$200 million in additional funding for completion.

Friends of Hudson River Park is dedicated to protecting, completing, and sustaining the entire Hudson River Park through advocacy, coalition building, and fundraising. Founded in 1999, we represent thousands of individual and organizational members committed to securing the \$200 million needed to complete this world-class park, and supporting its ongoing operations and development. When finished, this five-mile Park will extend uninterrupted along Manhattan's West Side Waterfront from 59th Street to the Battery.

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