



Village of Southampton

23 MAIN STREET
SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK 11968-4899
Website: www.southamptonvillage.org
Email: info@southamptonvillage.org

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
STEPHEN FUNSCH
VILLAGE ATTORNEY
RICHARD E. DEPETRIS
BUILDING INSPECTOR
JONATHAN B. FOSTER

MAYOR
MARK EPLEY
TRUSTEES
BONNIE M. CANNON
NANCY C. McGANN
PAUL L. ROBINSON
RICHARD W. YASTRZEMSKI

June 1, 2010

Docket Operations, M-30
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Room W-12-1240
West Building Ground Floor
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Docket Number FAA-2010-0302

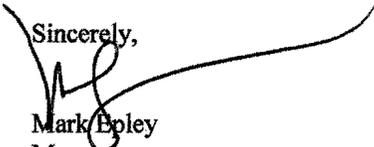
Dear Director,

On May 17, 2010 docket number FAA-2010-0302 was issued regarding the New York North Shore Helicopter Route. I applaud the FAA's action of making the North Shore Route mandatory and respectfully submit the following comments.

The Village of Southampton operates the Southampton Heliport (FAA location identifier: 87N). I am requesting formal recognition of 87N in the New York North Shore Helicopter Route and defining of the approach and departure paths for 87N. By approaching from and departing to the north, safety concerns that I have expressed to the FAA in the attended letter will be addressed. Additionally, all operations remain over water with minimal impact to the individuals on the ground and local residences. Memorial Day to Labor Day is the period of time that 87N experiences significant helicopter traffic. In 2008 there were 1178 operations and in 2009 there were 1170 operations during the season.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (631) 283-0247 ext. 222.

Sincerely,


Mark Epley
Mayor

cc: Honorable Charles Schumer, United States Senator
Honorable Tim Bishop, United States Congressman

2010 JUN -1 A 9:45
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

Village of Southampton

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FILE COPY

September 4, 2009

J. Randolph Babbitt, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Mr. Babbitt,

The tragic accident involving a helicopter and a small airplane on August 8, 2009 killing nine (9) people has raised my concern over unrestricted, uncontrolled helicopter and small plane operations.

The Village of Southampton is located 70 miles east of New York City on Long Island. We are home to mostly a seasonal population who also reside in Manhattan. A variety of modes of transportation are used to commute the 70 miles; cars buses, trains and helicopters.

Located in the Village of Southampton is a heliport that in April of 1975 was conveyed to the village from the federal government through a Quit Claim Deed under the condition that the Village maintains the property's aeronautical use. Prior to 1975 the heliport was used by the U.S. Coast Guard as an emergency landing site to support their search and rescue operations.

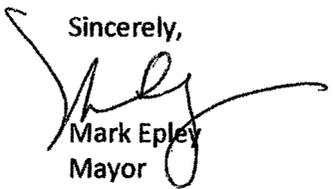
The Southampton Heliport (FAA location identifier 87N) has grown in its popularity as have the use of helicopters for individual, corporate and air taxi services. The physical size of 87N is 70 feet long and 45 feet wide. There are no ancillary buildings, facilities or services. Our local emergency response teams are comprised of a police force of 28 people, a volunteer fire department and a volunteer ambulance. The distance of travel from the headquarters of each of our emergency response teams is approximately 5 miles of residential roadways. In 2006 the Village began attempting to control operations of the heliport by restricting landing times, aircraft size, approach and departure tracks, waiting times and charging a landing fee. I have enclosed a copy of the Village Code for your review. We have approximately 1000 landings per year and our attempts to restrict operations have been successful with the exception of approach and departure tracks. This leads me to my original concern of the Hudson River accident.

During the summer months in Southampton we have planes that pull banners, private and commercial helicopters operating, Coast Guard operations both in the air and at sea and no control system in place. There are thousands of people on our beaches, private residents in the area, a Suffolk County park, joggers, bikers, and boaters all within a half of a mile radius of the heliport. The intense use periods for the heliport are the same intense use periods for these activities. Occasionally there are near misses between helicopter and helicopter or planes and helicopters.

I am requesting the FAA begin to restrict operations of helicopters. The cowboy attitude of many of the pilots and the blatant disregard of their own "neighborhood friendly" guidelines drive this request. I envision the worst; a helicopter pilot departing the heliport to the south over homes and a crowded beach encountering a plane pulling a banner. The Village Code is written to prevent that from happening but it appears the only government body who has the ability to control airspace is yours.

I am also asking the FAA define flight paths for helicopters and small planes. I am asking for support of our Village Code. I am asking the FAA to be proactive not reactive.

Sincerely,



Mark Epley
Mayor

CC: Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Kristen Gillibrand
Congressman Tim Bishop
Deborah A.P. Hersman, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Regional Administrator
Eastern Region

1 Aviation Plaza
Jamaica, NY 11434-4809

NOV 04 2009

The Honorable Mark Epley, Mayor
Village of Southampton
23 Main Street
Southampton, NY 11968

Dear Mayor Epley:

Thank you for your letter dated September 4, 2009, in which you raised concerns regarding unrestricted, uncontrolled helicopter & small plane operations in Southampton, NY.

The Air Traffic Organization requires additional time to investigate this issue and anticipates being able to respond to your concerns within 30 days. As soon as their review is completed, a reply will be forwarded to you.

If further information is needed, please contact my office or the Air Traffic Organization at 404-305-6220.

Sincerely,

87 Carmine W. Gallo
Regional Administrator



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Regional Administrator
Eastern Region

1 Aviation Place
Jamaica, NY 11434-4809

DEC - 4 2009

The Honorable Mark Epley
Mayor of the Village of Southampton
23 Main Street
Southampton, NY 11968-4899

Dear Mayor Epley:

Administrator Babbitt has asked that we respond to your letter dated September 4, 2009, regarding your concerns over airspace in the vicinity of the Village of Southampton, NY. Your letter addressed the perceived danger of unrestricted and uncontrolled helicopter operations originating from the Southampton Heliport. Additionally, you requested Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) intervention to restrict helicopter operations and define flight paths for helicopters and small planes.

The Southampton Heliport is a publicly owned public use heliport and is not contained in any restricted use airspace. As such, helicopter pilots have free and unlimited access to the heliport, unencumbered by any special FAA restrictions. Since the heliport was conveyed to the village by the federal government for aeronautical use, it is our opinion that helicopter operations at this heliport are in compliance with the provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, allowing helicopters to operate at low altitudes into and out of the heliport.

To our knowledge there have been no known incidences where safety has been compromised due to operations at this heliport. The Southampton Heliport is served by an instrument approach procedure, which allows pilots access to landing during instrument weather conditions. This procedure was approved by the FAA and deemed to be safe. As indicated in the Village Code, restrictions have already been placed on the helicopter operations at the heliport. If further restrictions are to be placed on the helicopter operations, it is incumbent upon your office to take up the matter with the helicopter operators or through other channels.

If further information is needed, please contact my office or the Air Traffic Organization at 404-305-6220.

Sincerely,

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Carmine W. Gallo
Regional Administrator