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**Significance of Helicopter Association International Decision 7-12-13**

**By Town of East Hampton Councilman Dominick Stanzione**

“The landmark decision with national implications handed down on Friday by the United States Court of Appeals in Washington against the country's leading commercial helicopter association is very good news for the Town of East Hampton's efforts to regulate helicopter noise at the East Hampton Airport,” says Dominick Stanzione.

“The helicopter association argued unsuccessfully the FAA had exceeded its authority by imposing restrictions on helicopters flying to-and-from East Hampton Airport and other airports on Long Island. The Court upheld and strengthened the powers of the FAA.”

“With FAA authority to regulate and mitigate helicopter noise firmly upheld and strengthened as a result of this decision, the best chance for successfully regulating helicopters at the East Hampton airport is by: 1) continue pressing the FAA to implement an Atlantic Route as requested by nearly all 19 villages, towns and elected officials on eastern Long Island, and 2) continue working with FAA cooperatively for its approval of additional noise control measures by the Town of East Hampton at the Town Airport. These could include mandatory curfews and access limitations.”

“I believe that by working with the FAA now, when the Town's on-going noise studies are properly completed and submitted to the FAA, East Hampton’s noise regulations, if reasonable, are more likely to be upheld by the FAA. Moreover, an Atlantic route is, I believe, more likely to be approved by the FAA as an addition to the existing Long Island Northern Route. A Two-Route FAA system has been recommended by the Town for several years.”

“Accepting FAA funds, as is done by virtually every paved airport in the nation, would actually strengthen the recently reestablished alliance between East Hampton and the FAA and encourage the FAA to continue its effort to get control of what the U.S. Court of Appeals has now validated as the FAA’s proper finding-----of an "unbearable . . . impact" of helicopter over-flights on the quality of life of people on the ground.”

"It seems now crystal clear -- rejecting FAA funds and having the Town 'go it alone' and battling the helicopter industry by ourselves is neither a prudent or necessary course of action.”

“I believe this landmark decision by the US Court of Appeals in Washington vindicates and validates the course of action I have steadfastly recommended and undertaken with the support of the Town Board, under the advice of aviation counsel -- that is, to follow the procedures set forth by the FAA to factually substantiate the disruptive effect of excessive helicopter noise on East Hampton residents and on residents of the entire east end. This decision gives great impetus to the probability of success of this town board’s efforts to effectively manage helicopter noise and traffic.”

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<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-12/helicopter-pilots-lose-challenge-to-faa-long-island-shore-route.html>