



**East Hampton Town Board**

159 Pantigo Road  
East Hampton, NY 11937

**ADOPTED**

**RESOLUTION 2015-215**

Meeting: 02/10/15 10:00 AM  
Department: Town Attorney  
Category: Local Law Public Hearing  
Prepared By: Elizabeth Vail  
Initiator: Elizabeth Vail  
Sponsors: Councilwoman Kathee Burke-Gonzalez  
DOC ID: 15009

## Notice of Public Hearing to Consider a Local Law Amending Chapter 75 (Airport) of the Town Code Regulating Operation of Noisy Aircraft at East Hampton Airport

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby directs that a public hearing shall be held on March 5, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., or as soon after as can be heard, at LTV Studios, located at 75 Industrial Road, Wainscott, New York, to hear any and all persons either for or against a proposed local law entitled: "A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 75 (Airport) of the Town Code regulating operation of noisy aircraft at East Hampton Airport" which provides as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2015

Intro. # 5 of 2015

A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 75 (Airport) of the Town Code regulating operation of noisy aircraft at East Hampton Airport.

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of East Hampton as follows:

### **SECTION 1. Legislative Intent.**

In the past three decades, the residents of the Town of East Hampton have experienced a significant increase in noisy aircraft traffic at the East Hampton Airport, chiefly helicopters, jets, and seaplanes. By its extensive complaints to the Town Board and to other governmental entities, the public has made clear, and this Town Board recognizes, the negative impact that this aircraft noise has made to the health and welfare of its citizenry, to wildlife and their habitat, as well as to the peace, quiet, and repose of the region. Aircraft noise has substantially diminished the quiet enjoyment of homes and properties and compromised the pleasures of the woodlands, beaches, fields, and preserved lands that define our community and sense of place.

East Hampton is an established resort community whose entire economy is intrinsically tied to the use and enjoyment of its natural and scenic environment, including its world renowned ocean beaches, wetlands, shorelines, harbors, bays, woodlands, and historic hamlets. Visitors and residents alike enjoy East Hampton's unique scenic beauty and the Town has made significant efforts to preserve the natural environs of the Town, spending a total of \$229,431,502 of Community Preservation Funds to preserve approximately 1,924 acres since 1998.

The Town's Comprehensive Plan has outlined the vital connection between preserving the natural scenic beauty and enjoyment of its community and the Town's economy, stating in its vision statement the goal to

"[t]ake forceful measures to protect and restore the environment, particularly groundwater. Reduce the impacts of

human habitation on groundwater, surface water, wetlands, dunes biodiversity, ecosystems, scenic resources, air quality, the night sky, noise and energy consumption.”

The 2007 Airport Master Plan Report that then became the basis for the adopted 2010 Airport Master Plan states, at II-73:

“The East Hampton Airport is owned, maintained and operated for the benefit of the Town and its residents. The airport continues to be classified as a General Aviation Airport under federal criteria. Its primary role is the accommodation of light aircraft traffic. Aircraft operating at greater weights will be accommodated on condition [sic] without unjust discrimination. The airport is also managed with the objective of providing emergency access and facilitation of all other public and community responsibilities. The size and operation of the airport takes into consideration the needs of East Hampton and Southampton residents for protection from excessive noise disturbance and adverse environmental impacts.”

“Control of noise and adverse environmental impacts at the airport is consistent with current Town goals for improved quality of life and land and water conservation. These goals recognize that protecting the environment is essential for improving the Town’s seasonal and year round economy. These controls are achieved through reasonable, non arbitrary and non discriminatory management practices. These may limit the maximum size of aircraft to be accommodated, regulate excessive peak demand during the summer season and otherwise adjust use patterns such as for helicopter access to minimize community disturbances.”

In an effort to address the impacts of aircraft noise, the Town Board undertook an extensive analysis of the citizenry’s complaints, and of the aircraft traffic itself, by the Town’s aviation consultants and noise engineers, the results of which have only confirmed the seriousness of the community’s noise disturbance. Of 24,000 airport noise complaints logged last year, the latest noise analysis discloses that they are overwhelmingly attributable to helicopters and jets, the noisiest types. Noise complaints at East Hampton Airport far exceed the level of complaints at major airports around the country. This is surely due, not least, to the incongruity of jet and helicopter noise in what is otherwise a very quiet, exurban and rural environment.

Specifically, noise from aircraft operating at the East Hampton Airport disturbs many residents of the East End of Long Island. Disturbance by the noisiest aircraft is most significant when aircraft operations are most frequent. The Town has determined that an overall limit on operations by the noisiest aircraft is essential to the quality of life to which residents and visitors are entitled.

In its capacity as proprietor of the East Hampton Airport, the Town Board has a public policy responsibility to protect residents from the adverse effects of aircraft noise. It has

developed a set of restrictions on the use of East Hampton Airport that are reasonable, non-arbitrary, and non-discriminatory. These restrictions address the problems of aircraft noise that are unique to the Town and neighboring communities while preserving for the community the benefits of aviation.

As the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit recognized in the *National Helicopter* case -- that residents have a justified, heightened expectation of quiet during non-working hours, evenings, nights, and weekends -- both year-round and seasonal residents of East Hampton and the East End have a justified, heightened expectation of quiet, yet suffer greater exposure to disturbance from aircraft noise, during the very periods when the East End is sought as a destination for repose and relief from urban ills. That is the reason why the huge influx of seasonal residents and visitors come to East Hampton. It is the reason why year-round residents struggle to stay in East Hampton despite the difficulty of earning a living in a limited economy on the end of a long, narrow peninsula on the tip of a long island. Peace, quiet, repose, outdoor recreation, sea, air, a beautiful and unique natural environment, these are the primary social and economic goods that East Hampton and the East End as a whole have to offer.

The Town Board recognizes the value of the East Hampton Airport to the community and does not want to impose any greater restriction than is necessary to achieve the Town's objectives.

To that end, the Town Board recognizes that limiting the volume and frequency of airport use by noisy aircraft types during the summer season is essential to restoring the peace and quiet that East Hampton residents and visitors have come to expect in this community. The legislation is intended to restrict aircraft according to the seriousness of their noise contribution to the community disturbance - that is, each aircraft's individual noise generation and the frequency and timing of its airport landings and takeoffs. The proposed restrictions are seasonally based, imposing greater limits during the period May 1 to September 30 each year when residents and visitors have a heightened expectation that they can enjoy our magnificent outdoor environment in peace.

By enacting this legislation, the Town Board seeks to achieve immediate, substantial noise relief for residents and visitors during the summertime, provide an incentive for airport users with noisy types of aircraft to transition to quieter types of aircraft, maintain the intended and traditional use of the East Hampton Airport by recreational aircraft, and continue sufficient air traffic to maintain a financially self-sustaining Airport.

The Town Board is committed to balancing the need to address the impact of the aircraft noise on the Town's environment with the equally important need to maintain an economically viable and safe airport for East Hampton.

The proposed legislation expressly excludes from its application aircraft operated by any federal, state or local government, any emergency services, evacuation services, public or private, and any operation by an aircraft in an emergency. The airport will remain open to such operations at all times without restriction or charge.

These restrictions are adopted on an interim basis. The effects of the legislation on the operations at the Airport for the period May 1 to October 31, 2015 shall be evaluated to determine whether the restrictions should be made permanent or modified. The Town Board will seek public comment throughout the Season and immediately following the Season to

determine the success and/or failure of the use restrictions and whether they function the way they were intended or need to be adjusted.

## **SECTION 2. Amendment**

Section 75-38, Airport Use Restrictions, of the Code of the Town of East Hampton is hereby amended by adding the following provisions:

### CHAPTER 75, AIRPORT.

#### **§ 75-38 AIRPORT USE RESTRICTIONS:**

##### **A. Definitions.**

- (1) "Calendar Week" shall mean the period beginning at 12:00:00 am on Sunday and ending at 11:59:59 pm on the following Saturday.
- (2) - *Reserved*
- (3) "Individual Aircraft" shall mean an aircraft, of whatever type, with a distinct registration number ("N number" if such registration is issued by the United States Government).
- (4) "Noisy Aircraft" shall mean any airplane or rotorcraft type classified as a Noisy Aircraft type pursuant to this Section.
  - (a) The Airport Director is directed to maintain on the Town website a current list of aircraft based upon the noise characteristics published by the Federal Aviation Administration, or (if data is not available from that agency), the European Aviation Safety Agency. Noisy Aircraft shall be defined as any airplane or rotorcraft for which there is a published Effective Perceived Noise in Decibels (EPNdB) approach (AP) level of 91.0 or greater
  - (b) In lieu of being subject to the definition of "Noisy Aircraft" pursuant to subsection (a) on the basis of the Town's list of types of Noisy Aircraft, the owner of an Individual Aircraft may elect to have the noise classification of such Individual Aircraft determined by the sound levels on the basis of the EPNdB level that is published in the airplane or rotorcraft flight manual for such Individual Aircraft pursuant to 14 C.F.R. 36.1581(a). To obtain a noise classification of an Individual Aircraft, the owner of such aircraft shall provide the Airport Director with a true copy of the relevant pages from such manual showing the noise level data. In the event of a conflict between the Town's list of classifications of Noisy Aircraft types and classification based on the data set forth in the Individual Aircraft airplane or rotorcraft flight manual, the data in the Individual Aircraft airplane or rotorcraft flight manual shall prevail. Once the owner of an Individual Aircraft has provided the Airport Director with

such data from the Individual Aircraft airplane or rotorcraft flight manual, and the Airport Director has determined the authenticity thereof, the Airport Director shall keep such data on file so that the owner need not resubmit the data for each Use of the Airport, and compliance by such Individual Aircraft with this Section shall be determined based on such data.

(6) "Use of the Airport" shall mean either one arrival (landing) at, or one departure (takeoff) from, the Airport, shall not include any repositioning of any aircraft on the Airport or any aborted takeoff or landing, but shall include touch-and-go operations that result in use of an Airport runway.

B. [Reserved]

**C. Noisy Aircraft Operations.** Use of the Airport by Noisy Aircraft is prohibited as follows:

(1) [Reserved]

(2) More than two Uses of the Airport by an Individual Aircraft during a Calendar Week, or portion of a Calendar Week, that falls within the Season.

D. [Reserved]

**E. Exemptions.** The restrictions of this section 75-38 shall not apply to any aircraft operational emergency, any medical emergency operation, whether by public or private aircraft, or to any operation by a government-owned aircraft, including, without limitation, police, emergency services, and military operations. In the case of an aircraft emergency or medical emergency operation, the operator shall submit a sworn statement to the Airport Manager within 24 hours of such operation attesting to the nature of the emergency and reason for the operation.

**§ 75-39 PENALTIES:**

A. Section 75-34 shall not apply to violations of Section 75-38 and this Section 75-39 shall apply for all violations of Section 75-38. For the purpose of conferring jurisdiction upon courts and judicial officers in general, violations of Section 75-38 shall be deemed misdemeanors, and, for such purpose only, all provisions of law relating to misdemeanors shall apply to such violations.

B. Any Use of the Airport by an Individual Aircraft in violation of Section 75-38 shall be punishable by a fine assessed against any person, organization, corporation, group or other entity which holds an ownership interest in such aircraft, as follows: (1) For the first violation by an Individual Aircraft, a fine of not more than \$1,000.

(2) For the second violation by an Individual Aircraft, a fine of not more than \$4,000.

(3) For the third violation by an Individual Aircraft, a fine of not more than \$10,000.

(4) For the fourth violation by an Individual Aircraft, a prohibition on any Use of the Airport by the Individual Aircraft involved in such violation for a period of not more than two years.

C. Each Use of the Airport by an Individual Aircraft in violation of Section 75-38 shall constitute a separate offense.

D. Should any person, organization, corporation, group or other entity be found in violation of the provisions of Section 75-38 within five years of a previous violation of this chapter, the minimum additional fine shall be not less than \$2000.

E. In addition to the above penalties, the Town may also maintain an action or proceeding in the name of the Town in a court of competent jurisdiction to compel compliance with or to restrain by injunction the violation Section 75-38 any person, organization, corporation, group or other entity which holds an ownership interest in the Individual Aircraft.

(1) If a finding is made by a court of competent jurisdiction that the defendants or any of them has caused, permitted or allowed a violation of Section 75-38, a penalty to be jointly and severally included in the judgment may be awarded at the discretion of the court in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for each violation that the defendants or any one of them individually caused, permitted or allowed.

### **SECTION 3. Authority**

The Town Board is authorized to establish and promulgate rules and regulations regarding use of the East Hampton Airport pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §10(1)(ii)(a)(11) and (12) and Town Law §130 and pursuant to its powers as the proprietor of East Hampton Airport under federal statutory and case law.

### **SECTION 4. Severability.**

If any section or subdivision, paragraph, clause or phrase of this law shall be adjudged invalid, unenforceable, or unconstitutional by any order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, or pursuant to any order of any administrative agency having jurisdiction, whether such judgment or order is temporary or permanent, such judgment or order shall not affect the validity of this law as a whole or any part thereof other than the part or provision so adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 5. Effective Date.**

This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to publish the following Notice of Public Hearing:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on March 5, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., or as soon after as can be heard, at LTV Studios, located at 75 Industrial Road, Wainscott, New York, to hear any and all persons either for or against a proposed local law entitled: "A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 75 (Airport) of the Town Code regulating operation of noisy aircraft at East Hampton Airport"

**SUMMARY OF LOCAL LAW**

The proposed law would regulate the types of aircraft, times of day and days of the year when noisy aircraft can operate at the East Hampton Airport.

Copies of the proposed local law sponsored by Councilwoman Burke-Gonzalez are on file in the Town Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK  
CAROLE BRENNAN, TOWN CLERK

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Councilwoman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Peter Van Scoyoc, Councilman
<b>AYES:</b>	Burke-Gonzalez, Van Scoyoc, Overby, Overton, Cantwell