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September 11, 2009

Mr. Seth Pinsky, President

NYC Economic Development Corporation

110 William Street

New York, NY 10038

Dear Mr. Pinsky:

The Brooklyn Heights Association is disturbed to learn via newspaper reports that the EDC intends to "manage" the noise and safety problems associated with helicopters using New York City airspace by moving the problems from one heliport to another. In this case, we're referring to operations at the West 30th Street heliport, which are to be phased out of that heliport in 2010 following a lawsuit by the Friends of the Hudson River.

We are particularly alarmed by an unattributed statement in an August 11th article of the New York Times which reported that "the Economic Development Corporation has cleared the way for the excursion operators to move from West 30th Street to the Downtown Manhattan Heliport." An August 28th article in the Brooklyn Heights Courier quotes EDC spokesperson, Dave Lombino, saying the same thing.

Is this the administration's response to the questions being raised about helicopter safety - to transfer the danger from one side of the city to another? Brooklyn Heights is already a witness to eight to ten helicopter flights per hour in and out of the Downtown Manhattan Heliport ("DMH"). What we now have is best described as a free-for-all of helicopters criss-crossing above Brooklyn Heights, at distances no greater than a few hundred feet.

We are outraged at the prospect of doubling or tripling the number of helicopter flights past Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO and Brooklyn Bridge Park, and we call on the EDC to close all of New York City heliports to excursion tours rather than pitting one community against another as its way of dealing with the issue.

Brooklyn Heights residents have not sued anyone nor should they have to resort to the courts to bring order to the Bloomberg administrations' policies regarding the use of heliports on land owned by New York City. Whatever happened to the administration's new noise code regulations?

A September 4th article of the Brooklyn Heights Courier quotes Mr. Lombino saying "We've been working closely with the Brooklyn Heights Community on mitigating noise." Please be advised that the Brooklyn Heights Association has never been contacted by EDC. We have not

been invited to any of the agency's meetings concerning helicopter issues, we were excluded from the July 2nd Heli-Symposium convened by the FAA and EDC, and no one from EDC has made any effort to meet directly with us.

Sincerely,

Tom van den Bout,  
President

cc: Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz  
Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez  
NYS Senator Daniel Squadron  
NYS Assemblywoman Joan Millman  
NYC Councilman David Yassky  
Community Board #2(K) Chairperson, John Dew  
Gus Sheha, President DUMBO Neighborhood Association