

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No. 0027-2024

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to monitoring helicopter noise

Submitted by:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Justification:

Helicopter noise has been a growing source of frustration for many New Yorkers, particularly in Manhattan. Helicopter-related noise complaints to New York City's 3-1-1 call center increased from 10,359 in 2020 to 25,821 in 2021 despite the presence of existing noise regulations. These alarming figures prompted the introduction of this bill in 2022. At present, New York City lacks a reliable, real-time system to measure and monitor helicopter noise levels. In the absence of such data, the City Council is limited in its ability to effectively regulate helicopter noise pollution. This bill would empower the City Council to take informed actions by requiring the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to identify high-impact areas and install decibel meters on rooftops, streetlights, and private buildings upon request of the owner. The data collected would be published monthly on the Department of Environmental Protection's website, and the designated areas would be reassessed every two years. With accurate, location-specific data, the Council can better respond to community concerns, hold operators accountable, and develop policies to reduce noise pollution and improve the quality of life for affected residents.