Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	Res 1563-2012	**Version:**	*	**Name:**	Sever or alter the concession agreement regarding the Downtown Manhattan Heliport in order to ban commercial tourism flights from the NYC area.
Type:	Resolution			**Status:**	Filed
				In control:	Committee on Transportation
On agenda:	11/13/2012				
Enactment date:				**Enactment #:**	

Title: Resolution calling on the Mayor of the City of New York to sever or alter the concession agreement regarding the Downtown Manhattan Heliport in order to ban commercial tourism flights from the New York City area.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
11/13/2012	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
11/13/2012	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
12/31/2013	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 1563

Resolution calling on the Mayor of the City of New York to sever or alter the concession agreement regarding the Downtown Manhattan Heliport in order to ban commercial tourism flights from the New York City area.

By Council Members Brewer, Levin, Chin, James and Rodriguez

Whereas, There have been 28 helicopter crashes around Manhattan in the last 30 years and 5 in the last 4 years; and

Whereas, The 1997 city ban on tourist helicopters from the 34th Street helipad cut helicopter traffic in that area by 65 percent; and

Whereas, The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that it would tighten rules governing commercial sightseeing tours after a helicopter and light plane collided over the Hudson in 2009, killing 9 people; and

Whereas, Helicopter noise and traffic has substantially increased in the lower Manhattan and Brooklyn

areas over the past two years due to the closure of the West 30th Street helipad to sightseeing helicopters, as these have all relocated to the Downtown Manhattan Heliport (DMH) near South Street Seaport; and

Whereas, DMH now has approximately 200 takeoffs and landings per day, 70 percent of which are sightseeing flights; and

Whereas, In 2010, the City banned tourist helicopter flights over Brooklyn and the East River due to the noise complaints, but many tourism companies have been blatantly ignoring the ban; and

Whereas, In April 2010, the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) released a Helicopter Sightseeing Plan to address the problems presented by tourist helicopter flights; and

Whereas, The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 was passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Obama on February 14, 2012, and it includes language regarding the reduction of helicopter traffic and noise over residential areas such as Long Island; and

Whereas, Commercial air tour companies are limited only to the DMH near Wall Street and are only authorized to fly specific routes; and

Whereas, EDC granted a concession to operate the DMH to FirstFlight, Inc. in November 2008 for a term of 10 years for commercial purposes, including tourism; and

Whereas, The terms of the concession to FirstFlight are severable and therefore the City can renegotiate the concession to change the terms; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the Mayor of the City of New York to sever or alter the concession agreement regarding the Downtown Manhattan Heliport in order to ban commercial tourism flights from the New York City area.

LS 2464 & 2932
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