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SUPERVISOR



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OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR
TOWN OF SOUTHOLD

Hon. Peter Van Scoyoc, Town Supervisor
East Hampton Town Board Members
Town of East Hampton
159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, NY 11939

RE: 2023 Helicopter Routes

Dear Supervisor Van Scoyoc:

The Southold Town Board watched the May 16th East Hampton Town Board work session, which included an update from Airport Manager Jim Brundige and three ERHC representatives, regarding routes for the upcoming season. The Echo route was proposed as the only 2-way route for entrance and exit of JPX. Sierra (the closest to the south shore helicopter route) being one way and requiring ATC permission; while November is also one-way inbound only.

Southold Town has several issues with this. As negatively impacted stakeholders, Southold was given no seat in East Hampton route discussions. Echo has been used in the past and caused significant negatives for both our LI Sound and Bayfront facing residents/beach goers as well as our inland residents. Water does not abate aviation noise especially at one mile out and pilots tend to transition over land and cut corners to save time/fuel. Further, there is no language stating that pilots must use the FAA Long Island North Shore Helicopter Route in both directions. The 2023 routes have all been used in the past resulting in significant resident outcry, we see no reason to believe this year will be different.

Southold Town derives no economic benefit from JPX. It is only fair that if East Hampton wants the economic benefits from air taxis, then East Hampton must shoulder the majority of the negative externalities. One of the ERHC representatives mentioned "splitting the misery", how the community to the south of the airport was dealing with the "undue burden" of air traffic and another noted the goal was to "get the air traffic away from East Hampton". Southold does not see any new routes that would equitably split the misery and does not want to be on the receiving end of any traffic shifts away from East Hampton.

Southold Town Board feels the South Shore Helicopter Route should be used to the maximum extent possible and looks forward to being a part of future route discussions.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Russell
Supervisor