



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, New York 11937

PETER VAN SCOYOC
Supervisor

(631) 324-4140
pvanscoyoc@eamptonny.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town Noise Abatement Routes Remain Unchanged; Sierra Route Can Be Safely Utilized

East Hampton, NY August 3, 2018- Increased air traffic this summer at East Hampton Airport has led to a recent increase in noise concerns and community discussion about helicopter and other aircraft traffic over the routes into and out of the airport to the north and south, or the Echo and Sierra routes.

In a statement issued by Robinson Aviation on August 2, Keren Williams McLendon, the company CEO, said that “There have been no official cancellations of any routes – including the Sierra route. The Sierra route continues to be utilized upon request if there is not a traffic conflict. ...This is a voluntary noise abatement route and it must be requested by the pilot in order to be utilized.”

The Town of East Hampton has not authorized or directed a change in the preferred aircraft routes into and out of East Hampton Airport, established for noise mitigation. These routes were agreed upon in discussions with the airport manager and involved parties such as the Eastern Region Helicopter Council, and are to be implemented by the town’s air traffic controllers.

Air traffic controllers, provided to East Hampton Airport through a contract between Robinson Aviation and the Town, when on duty control air traffic in a 4.8-mile radius around the airport, and are directed to route traffic safely along the agreed-upon routes, as practicable.

Robinson Aviation has assured the Town that, going forward, agreed-upon procedures will continue to be followed. The East Hampton airport manager, Jim Brundige, has confirmed with the Eastern Region Helicopter Council that, according to a standing letter of agreement, the Sierra route remains a viable option under the noise abatement program.

“The routes being utilized today have been in place for about six years, with the Sierra route being modified about four years ago,” Ms. McLendon said in her statement. Robinson Aviation’s safety and quality assurance manager will be asked, she said, “to review all of the LOAs and procedures that are currently in place to verify that all are in accordance with F.A.A. regulations.”

Town officials are continuing efforts, on both legal and legislative fronts, to put into effect fair, but meaningful, airport access restrictions that will reduce noise disruptions to residents under flight paths. Until these burdensome bureaucratic processes can be complied with, the voluntary noise abatement procedures are the best method to provide relief to the noise affected.