


TO: Mayor via City Secretary

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

SUBJECT: An ordinance amending Chapter 9, Article V of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, relating to the licensing and operation of heliports and helistops in the city; containing findings and other provisions relating to the foregoing subject; providing for severability; and declaring an emergency.		Page 1 of 1	Agenda Item #
FROM: (Department or other point of origin): Andrew F. Icken, Office of the Mayor	Origination Date: 11/4/15	Agenda Date:	
DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	Council District affected:		
For additional information contact: Mario Diaz, Director Houston Airport System – 281-233-1816 Mark Loethen, Deputy Director, PWE – 832-395-2705	Date and identification of prior authorizing Council Action: Ord. 83-1558 , Dec.1, 1983		
RECOMMENDATION: (Summary) Approve an ordinance amending Chapter 9, Article V of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, relating to the licensing and operation of heliports and helistops			
Amount and Source of Funding: None			
SPECIFIC EXPLANATION: In 1983, Chapter 9, Article V was comprehensively revised and updated to regulate the construction and maintenance of heliports and helipads. The driving concern was to protect citizens from the perceived and actual hazards associated with helicopters specifically noise, to protect property values surrounding a new heliport or helipad, and to protect quality of life in the surrounding neighborhoods. The technology of helicopters, including sound mitigation devices have improved substantially since 1983, and the City's experience with licensing suggest that revisions to the ordinance could substantially streamline and clarify the licensing process. The proposed revisions will minimize administrative costs to the City and minimize the regulatory burden on the regulated industry without negatively impacting surrounding property values, quality of life or health and safety of the citizens of the City of Houston. The proposed revision of the Heliport Ordinance has the following significant changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes of the 750 foot distance limitation. This provision is redundant of the ambient noise limit and adds no protection beyond the noise limits.• Streamlines the permitting process<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Permits issued by the Director, not a Board○ Permit criteria more clearly stated○ Eliminates a class of permit (secondary restricted license) that hasn't been used.• Director's discretion limited to temporary permits or revocations, and discretion criteria more clearly stated• Eliminates the Helicopter facility licensing and appeals board			
REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION			
Finance Budget:	Other Authorization:	Other Authorization:	