



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (shermanoaksnc.org)

January 9, 2024

To Los Angeles City Council and its Committees

LAPD Helicopter Audit: It is Time to Address Low Altitude Air Traffic Concerns

Position: For — CF 23-1422. Air Support Division / Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Audit.

Although the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) makes no comment on what the Controller's Office in its report defines as "high priority crime" nor Air Support's \$46.6 million annual cost, SONC notes the Controller's finding that "helicopters can have a negative quality of life impact on the lives of residents who live in communities with frequent helicopter activity."

SONC's concern with the large scope of LAPD Air Support is thus borne from our long-standing concern for our constituents' wellbeing relative to air traffic, namely low-flying air traffic in the skies over Sherman Oaks, which our Council is intimately familiar with due to our experiences with Van Nuys (VNY) and Burbank (BUR) airports. This concern includes LAPD air operations.

Helicopters regularly fly at altitudes lower than jet aircraft and according to the Controller's audit, burn nearly 50 gallons of fuel per hour. Atmospheric dispersion modeling indicates this low altitude—often less than 1,000 feet above ground level, especially in elevated portions of Sherman Oaks—simply isn't high enough for significant dispersion of fuel, aircraft, and other flight-related toxins, which in turn rain down in harmful, undiluted quantities on communities below.

Therefore, SONC supports, in part, the Controller's QOL findings but offers no opinion on the issue of only 39% of flight time dedicated to "high priority crime".

SONC urges City Council, LAPD, or any other relative agency, to modify standard procedures for LAPD Air Support, such as assigning helicopters to take established aerial corridors (e.g., I-405 and US-101 freeways) to traverse Sherman Oaks when not involved in priority incidents, and to decrease unneeded operations of less than 1,500 feet above ground level (AGL), which should be noted is more than 2,500 above mean sea level (MSL) in the Sherman Oaks hills.

Thank you for your consideration.
With Pride and Determination—

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