

November 6, 2000 11

Members of the Council and fellow citizens;

I am concerned and annoyed by the increase in noise in this City. One issue in particular affects me and everyone else who lives here.

Overflights of all kinds have increased steadily in the past few years. We have "tourist" planes, "photo-op" planes, military aircraft, press and traffic helicopters, "private carrier" helicopters, banner-towing planes, ad-plastered blimps in addition to commercial and private fixed-wing aircraft. Every time there is an event of any kind in Cambridge or Boston, blimps and banner-towing planes circle the city for hours. Even ordinary weekends are seen as opportunities to plaster the sky with ads. The resulting noise makes the homes below vibrate, and greatly reduces the pleasure of being there, indoors or out.

Parts of Cambridge have become flyways for private helicopter services. I kept track of the number and kinds of helicopter flights by keeping a log and calling in particularly loud overflights to the Logan Aircraft Noise Abatement Complaint line. In a 30 day sample I recorded 99 overflights. This number doesn't include flights I was too busy to record or those that happened while I was at work on those days/nights.

I called in 19 of the overflights to the Complaint Line. That agency looked at radar images of the area and sent me reports about the overflights.

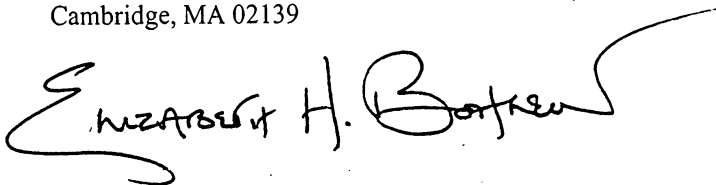
Two helicopters were above	1000 ft
Four were at	900 ft
One was at	800 ft
Six were at	700 ft
Two were at	600 ft
Four were at	500 ft

I have been told that the FAA requires helicopters to fly above 1000ft unless they are doing emergency work. Helicopters are also supposed to follow one of several flight paths. There is a flight path over the Charles River, which is what these helicopters are not using. All of these overflights were very near my house in the middle of Cambridgeport. The "private carrier" traffic is cutting across Cambridgeport, subjecting residents here to noise 24 hours a day. I called in my latest complaint at 4:30 am this morning.

Cambridge and Boston are densely populated areas. Non-essential aircraft should be strictly regulated over such areas to minimize the risk of accidents and to protect the quality of life of everyone who lives here. Ad-towing aircraft and blimps should either be banned (my preference) or they should be required to cover large areas, reducing the amount of noise any particular community is forced to bear.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bohlen
111 Chestnut St.
Cambridge, MA 02139



Consent Communications

**Communication from Elizabeth Bohlen, 111
Chestnut Street, transmitting her annoyance
about the increased noise in the city.**

**In City Council,
November 6, 2000**

Placed on file