



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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JOINT STATEMENT FROM CMs ROSENTHAL, MENCHACA AND CHIN ON SUNDAY'S HELICOPTER CRASH

CITY HALL – “Sunday’s helicopter crash was a tragedy that claimed five innocent lives. We believe that the family and friends of the victims deserve answers from state and city – and especially federal – authorities who are responsible for the safety of everyone flying above our city. As the authors of tough legislation to severely limit helicopter flights, we renew our demand for accountability from government agencies and the helicopter tour industry. We are requesting a hearing as soon as it can be arranged so that we can determine whether everything possible is being done to keep New Yorkers and everyone visiting our city safe.”

Council Members Menchaca, Rosenthal and Chin co-sponsored Intro. 858 and 859 calling for restrictions of tourist helicopter flights taking off from and landing at Downtown Manhattan Heliport. After a hearing on the bill in 2015, the tourist helicopter industry yielded to pressure and agreed to a 50 percent reduction in the number of tourist flights – including a total ban on tourist flights on Sundays.

Because the flight that crashed on Sunday departed from a heliport in Kearney, N.J., it was not subject to current limitations on tourist flights taking off from Lower Manhattan.

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