

From: Elmhurst Neighborhood Assoc (elmhurstneighborhoodassoc@gmail.com)
To: Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (assemblymember.McCarty@assembly.ca.gov)
Sent: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 1:38 PM
Subject: Following up on response regarding helicopter noise

Dear Assemblymember McCarty,

The Elmhurst Neighborhood Association (ENA) and many of your constituents living in our neighborhood are disappointed by your response below.

We do not understand your saying, "this is not an issue involving a state agency" and that "my office will not be able to assist further."

The University of California Davis (UCD) Medical Center is part of the University of California system, a constitutionally created state entity. Even if the UCD Medical Center was not a state entity, we expect your assistance because you are our elected representative, and we are your constituents.

ENA has renewed discussions with UCD Medical Center to address ongoing and increasing noise and vibration disturbances at its helipads. These discussions are just beginning and may hold some promise.

However, in addition, ENA seeks to raise our concerns to the University's main Davis campus and the Office of the President. We ask that your office not dismiss our concerns and facilitate communications on this matter with your contacts at the Davis main campus and the Office of the President.

We would appreciate your office helping to facilitate a dialogue about our helicopter concerns between ENA and the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Aeronautics Division. Caltrans aeronautics division is generally responsible for the permitting and inspection of heliports and has issued a permit to UCD Medical Center for operation of its heliport. We want to better understand this process and Caltrans role.

We would also appreciate you helping to facilitate a meeting with managers at the FAA Flight Standards District Office in Sacramento. We believe they need to be engaged as we understand they are charged with monitoring and regulating the air medical service providers that utilize the UCD Medical Center heliport. We know the FAA is not a state agency but, this is something your office should facilitate for us, your constituents.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Sincerely,

Elmhurst Neighborhood Association Board

From: Assemblymember.McCarty@outreach.assembly.ca.gov

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:42 AM

Subject: From the Office of Assemblymember McCarty

Thank you for taking the time to contact my office about this issue. As your elected official, my goal is to provide the highest quality of public service. Engaged constituents like yourself are vital to a healthy democracy and I will keep your ideas and comments in mind as the legislative session progresses. In regards to this issue surrounding the noise from helicopters at UCDCM, I would like to direct you to a recent message from Brad Simmons, the Chief Administrator, UC Davis Medical Center and Chief Operating Officer, UC Davis Health Hospital Division that was sent to the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association.

Dear Elmhurst Neighborhood Association Board of Directors,

Thank you for your letter outlining your most recent concerns about helicopters flying over the neighborhood on the way to the UC Davis Medical Center. We are aware of the matter and the ongoing concerns that have been expressed by neighbors. While the hospital flights are needed to support the critical care needs of very sick or injured patients, we understand helicopter noise can be frustrating and is an ongoing concern for adjacent neighbors.

As we've discussed previously, UC Davis Health does not have regulatory authority over these helicopters, or the path air ambulances take when bringing patients to and from the hospital. We are

happy to partner with the neighborhood and helicopter operators to do what we can to address the situation. Here are the steps we will take in the next few weeks:

- We will send a reminder letter to the air ambulance companies, with the neighborhood association's letter included. We will remind the companies to utilize the primary flight approach and departure routes and not over the residential neighborhood when possible. As we have discussed previously, final decisions
- We will refresh the awareness posters about flight path information next to the pilot's logbook area on the helipad.
- We will provide a list of the most common air ambulance providers with contact information for the public to access.
- We will continue to study noise levels from helicopters as part of the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Report for the California Tower Project.

While we hope these steps will help, we do not want to represent that we think this will completely resolve the concerns the neighborhood association has raised. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has confirmed the pilots have the sole discretion to determine their flight paths and flying over the neighborhood is neither illegal nor a violation of any kind. In fact, the UC Davis Medical Center is a visual landmark used by low-flying aircraft on approach to Sacramento Executive Airport as part of their radio transmissions to other pilots and the airport tower indicating their airborne location. There is no special reporting or notice that is required when a pilot decides to approach or depart from the north (over the neighborhood), instead of on the primary approach.

We are committed to doing what we can to assist the neighborhood in addressing these issues. UC Davis provides helipads for the critical care needs of patients who are very sick or injured. The helicopter operations are a key part of life-saving treatment for people in our community. The UC Davis helipads are not used for tourism, employee transportation, or general aviation and are restricted solely to air ambulance operations. I have shared your concerns with the entire UC Davis executive leadership team to further highlight this as a key concern of our neighbors. We apologize that this issue remains a frustration for the adjacent neighbors and appreciate all efforts to discuss and collaborate on potential solutions. Thank you again for raising this issue to me.

Best Regards,

Brad Simmons

Chief Administrator – UC Davis Medical Center
Chief Operating Officer – UC Davis Health Hospital Division

UC Davis Medical Center

2315 Stockton Blvd.
North Addition Office Suite 2202
Sacramento, CA 95817
916-734-0750 tel

As this is not an issue involving a state agency, my office will not be able to assist further. If we can be of additional assistance to you regarding another matter, we invite you to visit my website at www.asmdc.org/mccarty to contact my team.

It is a pleasure to be of service.

Sincerely,

Kevin McCarty

Assemblymember, 7th District