



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

**Comments submitted to Federal Aviation Administration by Community Board 1's
Quality of Life Committee on proposed regulation amendments on operations of small
unmanned aircraft systems in the National Airspace System
April 24, 2015**

On April 18 2015, a representative from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) presented to Manhattan Community Board 1's (CB1) Quality of Life Committee its proposed regulation amendments to adopt specific rules to allow the operation of small unmanned aircraft systems in the National Airspace System.

CB1 as one of New York City's 59 community boards covers lower Manhattan below Canal Street, south to the Staten Island ferry and Governors Island and Ellis Island, and from the Hudson River to the East River. This area is home to many sensitive sites including the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum, the World Trade Center, the Brooklyn Bridge, the New York Stock Exchange, the City Hall and the Downtown Manhattan Heliport located on Pier 6 with hundreds of take offs and landings every day. Our community is densely populated and has 72,000 residents, 320,000 workers and 12,5 million tourists that visited last year.

As a result of the recent history of this area and the traumatic experiences of the community, we are extremely concerned about public safety issues. Specifically, we have serious concerns regarding operations of small, unmanned aircraft systems in our district and the possibility that there could be terrorist attacks or collision with other aircraft near the heliport or with tall buildings. Due to the density, a malfunction or mistake of unmanned aircraft system is more likely to cause deaths, injuries and property damage.

We are also aware of privacy concerns regarding the ability of unmanned aircraft systems to take pictures and videos of individuals through the windows of their homes or places of business.

At the present time regulations ban all drones from flying over concentrated urban areas, including all of Manhattan. In addition to the proposed regulations, CB1 urges the FAA to also implement a realistic and well-funded system of enforcement that includes rigorous penalties. CB1 also asks the FAA to consider our concerns and strengthen enforcement methods so that everything possible is done to ensure that no unmanned aircraft systems operate in our skies without proper authorization.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.