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NEWS RELEASE

December 28, 2009

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**ROMAINE URGES FAA TO HONOR SCHUMER/BISHOP REQUEST
TO REGULATE HELICOPTER TRAFFIC OVER LONG ISLAND**

In a letter to Administrator J. Randolph Babbitt, Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine urged the FAA to honor a recent request by Senator Charles Schumer and Congressman Timothy Bishop to regulate helicopter over Long Island.

Senator Schumer and Congressman Bishop recently met with Administrator Babbitt and urged the FAA to regulate helicopter traffic over Long Island citing existing federal statutes.

In his letter, Romaine writes, "The Federal Aviation Administration does have the power to regulate helicopter traffic and, as the recent accident over the Hudson River confirms, helicopter traffic needs additional regulation."

The FAA already regulates helicopter traffic over Hawaii and has considered noise standards since 1969.

Romaine continues, "The continued lack of action by the FAA led me to introduce a local law regulating helicopter traffic over Suffolk County. This law was adopted by the County Legislature and sign by the County Executive."

This landmark legislation regulating helicopter making it illegal in Suffolk County to operate a helicopter in a "careless or reckless manner" and for "failing to take all actions reasonably necessary for safe operation or operating at an altitude that creates a hazard or undue hardship for persons and property on the surface."

"Long Island residents cannot go another summer with helicopters continually buzzing above their heads. Now is the time to adopt regulations and grant Long Islanders some peace and quiet," Romaine's letter closed.