

Phyllis Dickey

Subject: FW: noisy IR detecting police helicopter flights at night

From: Kimerer, Scott [mailto:Scott.Kimerer@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 3:23 PM
To: la.johnson@comcast.net
Subject: RE: noisy IR detecting police helicopter flights at night

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Thank you for your correspondence. As you are aware, the helicopter belongs to the King County Sheriff's Office. I have spoken with the supervisor of that unit regarding your complaint. She stated that you have also called and spoken to her. Since the City of Burien contracts with the King County Sheriff's Office, we have the ability to use the helicopter and find it to be a very useful tool. The nature of the calls we will use the helicopter for tend to be serious in nature that threaten life, property or the safety of our officers. Your concerns have been forwarded to the helicopter unit and they have assured me that every consideration will be made for responses in your neighborhood. Unfortunately it appears there have been a number of incidents in this area. I will look into the comments made to you as I feel they were inappropriate. The issue of the "Domestic Disturbance" call will always be considered a high priority incident and the use of the helicopter is appropriate for our safety and the safety of the community. I hope these occurrences are less frequent in the future.

Thank you again,

K. Scott Kimerer
Police Chief/City of Burien
206-296-3342 office/voice mail
206-296-0916 fax

From: Council
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 2:52 PM
To: 'L Johnson'
Subject: RE: noisy IR detecting police helicopter flights at night

Thank your for your message. It will be referred to the Police Department for response and included in the Council's Correspondence for the Record.

L. Clausen
Burien City Manager's Office

From: L Johnson [mailto:la.johnson@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 9:31 PM
To: Council
Subject: noisy IR detecting police helicopter flights at night

Honorable Council members, Mayor and Deputy Mayor,

I am writing this email for information on what can be done to mitigate a growing complaint that my neighbors and I living in south Gregory Heights and north Normandy Park have regarding the use of noisy IR detecting police helicopter flights at night.

We moved into Gregory Heights partly because it is a relatively quiet neighborhood, and while there is an airport noise hotline, there is none for this far louder annoyance.

CFTR: 4-6-09

The past year has seen the number of flights increase to an almost nightly occurrence. The noise of the back and forth flight pattern manifests itself as a fade-in fade out flyby every 4 or 5 minutes for the better part of an hour each night. This past week saw 4 nights out of 5. Some passes shake the house. Strangely they are usually between 2:00 and 3:00 in the morning, just when I need the deepest sleep.

My work is starting to be affected by lack of sleep.

I have called the sheriff dispatcher with the complaint more than once and have been told more than twice by members of the police force that "I should feel lucky they are out there" and "I suggest ear plugs". Even with earplugs, I still feel the house shake.

The last inquiry I made yielded a response like "It is a domestic disturbance call and they are assisting the ground unit". This leads me to ask if we really need to send a very expensive helicopter (\$1,000 per hour?) to fly around over an entire neighborhood just because some guy and his wife are fighting somewhere. Isn't this flyby the real "disturbance?"

I would appreciate any advice into how we can help restore the old quality of life regarding night noise around here. I feel very disturbed that after working so hard to invest in this house and neighborhood, I can't feel at peace. Now it seems we are living in east L.A.

Sincerely, and very tired....

Larry Johnson AIA
Burien Resident since 1991