

AN ORDINANCE
To Be Entitled

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE STANDARDS AND FEES FOR THE OPERATION OF HELICOPTER LANDING FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE:

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah in Council assembled:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this ordinance is to set forth standards and fees for the operation of helicopter landing facilities within the City of Savannah in order to protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

SECTION 2: ADMINISTRATION

The terms and provisions of this ordinance shall be administered by the City Manager of the City of Savannah.

SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS

(a) Heliport. A heliport is a public or private area, either at ground level or elevated on a structure, used, or to be used, for landing or take-off of helicopters or other steep-gradient aircraft capable of hovering, and may include any or all of the area or service buildings which are appropriate to accomplish these functions, such as refueling, maintenance or repair facilities; such facility may be designed to accomodate more than one aircraft.

(b) Helistop. A helistop is a public or private area, either at ground level or elevated on a structure, used, or to be used, for landing or take-off of helicopters or other aircraft capable of hovering which shall not afford refueling, maintenance or repair facilities, in which tie-down facilities alone are available and are for the accomodation of a single aircraft.

SECTION 4: HELIPORT OR HELISTOP REQUIREMENTS

License Required

(a) No persons shall operate any helicopter within the limits of the City of Savannah unless there is outstanding for such helicopter a valid air-worthiness certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration of the United States of America.

(b) No person shall operate any helicopter within the limits of the City of Savannah unless there is outstanding for the person flying such helicopter a valid airman's certificate with appropriate ratings issued by the Federal Aviation of the United States of America.

(c) It shall be unlawful for the owner or person in control of any property to install, maintain, or operate thereon, a heliport or helistop, as defined herein, where such helistop or heliport is permitted by the zoning ordinance of the City of Savannah, for the purpose of conducting either transportation or sight-seeing services without first having obtained a license therefor. Application for a license for such heliport or helistop shall be made in writing to the Mayor and Aldermen. Said application shall contain the following:

1. Name of applicant; individual, firm, association or corporation.
2. Address of applicant.
3. Location and description of premises sought to be licensed.
4. Name and address of agent, if any.

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5. Type of service to be specified; transportation, sight-seeing, or other service.
6. Maximum weight of aircraft to be permitted to land on premises.
7. Proposed plans and specifications for said heliport.
8. Proof of insurance or other surety.

No license shall be issued until said plans and specifications have been submitted to the Director of Inspections of the City of Savannah, the Chief of the Savannah Fire Department, and the Chief of the Savannah Police Department and their reports forwarded to the City Manager, who shall in turn make a recommendation to the Mayor and Aldermen, who shall then issue all such licenses.

License Fee

All applications for a building permit for heliport or helistop shall be accompanied by a fee according to the Building Code.

All permits now or hereafter issued by the City may be renewed from year to year upon payment of any annual fee; provided that if charges of improper operation are filed with the City Manager against any permit holder, a temporary permit may be issued by the City Manager to permit operation pending final action on the charges.

SECTION 5: AIR TRAFFIC RULES TO BE OBEYED

No person shall operate any helicopter within the limits of the City of Savannah, except in strict accordance with the safety regulations, manuals and directives prescribed by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Civil Aeronautics Board.

SECTION 6: CONSTRUCTION

Any person may construct, build, or designate space for a heliport or helistop in any area of this municipality, where such use is permitted by the zoning ordinance, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) That if such heliport or helistop is to be elevated in any manner by being constructed on a platform or on the roof of a building, such platform or building shall be inspected and approved as structurally safe for use by the City Manager and by a certified structural engineer at the expense of the applicant.

(b) That if such heliport or helistop is to be at ground level it shall either: (1) be located in an enclosed area which does not permit access by the public at will, or (2) be completely enclosed by a fence or wall, either temporary or permanent, designed so as to provide safety for persons, vehicles or other things in the area.

(c) That the design, construction and physical characteristics of any such heliport or helistop shall conform to applicable standards, rules and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration. That the plans and specifications of any such heliport or helistop shall be submitted to the City Manager of the City of Savannah for examination and determination whether they conform to any applicable provisions of the existing building code, and that the necessary permits, if any are required pursuant to such code, shall be obtained before any construction is begun.

(d) Landing Pad. Every heliport or helistop located above ground level shall be provided with a landing pad constructed in accordance with applicable Building Codes and/or FAA Regulations.

(e) Dust-Proof Cover. All heliport or helistop landing areas shall be sodded or covered with dust-proof material if located at ground level, or covered with dust-proof material if elevated above ground level.

(f) Lighting. Any heliport or helistop intended to be used for night landing or take-off shall be provided with flood lights and also with linear perimeter lighting of fluorescent or cold cathode type, or by amber lights spaced around the helistop pad, not less than 20 feet apart.

(g) All elevated heliport or helistops shall be restricted to helicopters not exceeding the gross weight or load rating stated in the application for permit or permits.

(h) All heliports or helistops shall be marked in accordance with FAA criteria.

SECTION 7: FENCING

Every ground level heliport or helistop shall be fenced and protected to prevent entrance of unauthorized personnel with a fence, a minimum of 36 inches in height, entirely surrounding the minimum heliport area as established by the FAA; except that the minimum fence height may be increased 12 inches for each 10 feet that the landing area is extended beyond the minimum area required. Other fencing shall be in accordance with applicable Building Code requirements, if any.

SECTION 8: MINIMUM AREA

No permit shall be issued for a heliport or helistop which does not meet the minimum area standards of applicable FAA regulations.

SECTION 9: SAFETY FEATURES REQUIRED

No permit for the operation of heliport or helistop shall be approved by the Chief of the Savannah Fire Department until the following fire prevention equipment is provided at the site of the proposed heliport or helistop:

(1) A set standpipe not less than two and one-half inches in diameter shall be provided at each heliport or helistop landing site. This standpipe shall be provided with a hose sufficiently long to reach the landing pad. This hose is to be equipped with a spray nozzle and a water supply sufficient to effeciently operate same. In addition to the set standpipe, a 30 pound dry chemical portable fire extinguisher shall be provided.

(2) When a set standpipe cannot be provided, a 150 pound dry chemical wheel type extinguisher and two additional 30 pound dry chemical portable extinguishers shall be provided.

(3) A telephone, other than a pay phone, shall be provided at each heliport or helistop for emergency purposes.

(4) Any elevated, or roof-top landing area shall be provided with two exits as remote from each other as practical; at least one of the exits shall be a stairway exit. The other exit may be an emergency exit leading from the area by means of a ladder or a stairway on any landing area.

(5) No smoking shall be permitted on any landing area.

(6) No fueling or major repairing of helicopters shall be permitted on any elevated, or roof-top heliport.

(7) All elevated, or roof-top heliports or helistops, shall be provided with curbs sufficient in height to prevent any accidental fuel spillage from entering the City's sewer system or over-flowing the side of the building.

(8) Fire protection and other required emergency equipment shall be properly sheltered from weather.

No permit shall be approved by the Chief of the Savannah Police Department until he is sufficiently satisfied that no inordinate danger to the public will be created by operation of heliports or helipads or by external load or temporary landing operations.

SECTION 10. INSPECTION

The City Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief or the Airport Director, or any of their authorized personnel, shall have authority to make periodic inspections of heliports and helistops to determine that all the requirements of a permit issued are complied with.

SECTION 11. REVOCATION OF LICENSE

The City Manager may revoke any permit issued herein if after investigation by the Chief of the Fire Department, the Chief of the Police Department, or the Airport Director, it is determined that alteration of the physical profile of the area surrounding any heliport or helistop renders its continued operation unsafe, or for the violation of any provisions of law thereto pertaining, or if he finds that such operations of helistops or heliports unreasonably interferes with the use and enjoyment of neighborhood property, he may take appropriate action to suspend such operation or impose such conditions upon continued operations as he may deem fit.

SECTION 12: EXTERNAL LOAD AND TEMPORARY LANDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

No person, firm, or corporation shall operate any helicopter for the conduct of non-passenger-carrying helicopter external load operations or temporary landing unless said applicant has first applied for and obtained a permit from the City Manager and has filed with and obtained approval of a plan for said operation from the Federal Aviation Administration district office having jurisdiction over the area in which the operation is to be conducted. Said application for a permit shall contain the following:

- (1) Name of applicant (whether a person, firm or corporation).
- (2) Address of applicant.
- (3) Description of external load operation and type of service to be specified for each external load operation, including route of operation, or location of proposed temporary landing site and type of service or operation to be supplied at that site.
- (4) Proof of insurance or surety.

Hours of Flight

Holders of temporary permits shall be limited in hours of operation to the period between sunrise and sundown daily, during VFR condition only.

All applications for external load or temporary landing permits shall be submitted to the City Manager with a fee of \$100.00 for every day of operation over the City of Savannah.

The City Manager shall grant all permits for external load operations within the City of Savannah and shall have authority to refuse any permit where, in his opinion, or in the opinion of the Chief of the Fire Department or Chief of the Police Department, or Airport Director, hazards which might be created by the proposed operation would warrant refusal of such permit.

All applications for external load and temporary landing permits shall be reviewed also by the Chief of Police and Chief of the Fire Department and the Airport Director prior to issuance. Disapproval by any of them or by the City Manager shall constitute disapproval of the requested permit. Each permit shall be valid for a period of not longer than two months and may be re-issued only once annually thereafter.

SECTION 13. PROOF OF AIRCRAFT OPERATING LIABILITY INSURANCE OR BONDING OF AIRCRAFT OPERATOR.

All operators of heliports or helistops and operators of all aircraft using these facilities shall file proof of possession of adequate insurance or other surety in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, in case of accidents, fires or personal or property damage resulting from operation of their facility or aircraft.

SECTION 14: NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION OR DE-ACTIVATION
REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW.

All applicants shall give proper notice to the United States of America of construction, alteration or de-activation as required by Federal Law on FAA Form 7480-1. Proof of this notice shall be submitted with the application.

SECTION 15: HOURS OF OPERATIONS

Where a heliport or helistop is permitted and located within an institutional or business zoned district, landing operations shall be restricted to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily. Where a permitted heliport or helistop is within a 200 foot radius of a residential zoned district, landing operations shall be restricted to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

SECTION 16: APPROACH ZONE

A heliport or helistop shall provide at least two approach lanes at least 90 degrees apart for landing or takeoff, sufficiently clear of obstructions to provide a slope of 1:8, approximately 7 degrees measured from the horizontal. Any curved approach necessary due to the obstruction of buildings or structures shall provide a turning radius of 600 feet. Approach lanes shall fan out to a width of 1,000 feet at a ten degree angle.

- (1) The flight approach to a heliport or helistop shall be over open area and along major transportation corridors to the extent possible.

SECTION 17: WEIGHT

The gross weight of a helicopter operating from a permitted heliport or helistop located within a 200 foot radius of a residential zoned district or within an institutional or business zoned district shall not exceed 5,000 pounds. However, a heavier helicopter may be permitted where the manufacturer certifies that such heavier helicopter will not exceed the noise level of a 5,000 pound gross weight helicopter in current production.

SECTION 18: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this day of , 1981.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF COUNCIL