

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** Michael Robert Hillmann  
**Date Submitted:** 02/07/2024 11:42 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0125  
**Comments for Public Posting:** See attached Letter of Support



**MICHAEL R. HILLMANN**

[mrhntoa@aol.com](mailto:mrhntoa@aol.com)

**(213) 705-4920**

February 3, 2024

**VIA EMAIL**

City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Letter of Support Bonseph Helinet, Trade and Tourism Committee February 8, 2024 Special Committee Meeting, Agenda Item 3, Council File No.24-0125**

Honorable Councilmembers:

My Name is Michael Hillmann, I am a retired LAPD Deputy Chief of Police and former Assistant Chief of Police for the Los Angeles Port Police. In my former capacities I have enjoyed a professional relationship with **Helinet Aviation Services** for over 35 years while in charge of the LAPD Air Support Division and the Port of Los Angeles.

I write this letter in complete support of the Bonesph Helinet lease at Van Nuys Airport, 16303 Waterman Drive, Los Angeles California.

During my over 50 years of public safety service, I have worked closely with Kathryn Purwin and Helinet Aviation. I have found Helinet to be a tremendous community resource, a valued business partner and most importantly, a giving company committed to Childrens Hospital, donor organs transportation and public safety (fire and law) advanced technology support.

As a minority, owned business, Mrs. Purwin is committed to community service and is interested in redeveloping the site to modernize current operations. The redevelopment process is needed to enhance current services to businesses, public safety and medical transportation. It is critical to point out, Helinet Aviation has demonstrated unwavering support for numerous life-saving, flight operations within our community and is well respected.

I wholeheartedly support this project and look forward to the City of Los Angeles enjoying enhanced employment opportunities, training and community engagement with Bonseph Helinet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Hillmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deputy Chief of Police (retired)  
Los Angeles Police Department

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** Michael Robert Hillmann  
**Date Submitted:** 02/07/2024 11:43 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0125  
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**MICHAEL R. HILLMANN**

[mrhntoa@aol.com](mailto:mrhntoa@aol.com)

**(213) 705-4920**

February 3, 2024

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City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
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Deputy Chief of Police (retired)  
Los Angeles Police Department

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michaela Purwin  
**Date Submitted:** 02/07/2024 11:59 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0125  
**Comments for Public Posting:** In Support of Bonseph Helinet, Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee February 8, 2024 Special Committee Meeting, Agenda Item 3, Council File No. 24-0125.

February 7, 2024

**Via Email**

City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: In Support of Bonseph Helinet, Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee February 8, 2024 Special Committee Meeting, Agenda Item 3, Council File No. 24-0125**

Dear Honorable Council Members,

My name is Michaela Purwin. I have been a part of Helinet since the day I was born. Alan Purwin, my father, started Helinet Aviation Services when he was about the same age I am now. My dad was born and raised here in Van Nuys, he never went to college, he honestly barely graduated from high school, but he was able to build an amazing organization that has helped thousands of people in this community since the day he opened Helinet's doors.

At the very heart of Helinet as a company has always been the idea of service; service to our employees and our community. In 1999, Judy Sherif, a Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) transport nurse, came to my dad and asked for a helicopter to transport critical kids to the hospital. She couldn't offer him any money, couldn't promise if the hospital could ever offer him any money, but she was desperate and decided to ask anyway. There was zero hesitation, my dad immediately agreed and set to work. To this day, 25 years later, Helinet still donates two dedicated helicopters to CHLA, on call 24/7, 365 days a year, with a fully staffed CHLA pilot team, state-of-the-art medical equipment, and support staff with absolutely no charge to the hospital or to the patients' families. This program, now named the Alan Purwin Emergency Transport program, has helped save over 11,000 children in the past 25 years.

In addition to providing life-saving care to hundreds of children every year, Helinet also works with several major hospitals in Southern California to provide transportation services for organ transplant patients. We flew our first organ in 1989, a heart for Cedars Sinai, and we have been providing life-saving service for organ recipients ever since, delivering approximately 1,000 organs every year to people in Southern California.

As some of you may know, my dad passed away in 2015, but his legacy of service and love for his community lives on through my mom (Kathryn Purwin) and every other person here at Helinet. When my dad died, a lot of people were worried that my mom would offer Helinet up to the highest bidder, that our family would sell out, take big payout, and leave my dad's legacy to be picked apart by whoever ended up in charge when the smoke cleared. And she could have done that, it would have the easy way out without a doubt. She could have turned the company over, wiped her hands clean, and Helinet would probably be another faceless charter machine today. But, despite almost every person claiming that there was no way she could do it, that there was no way "the wife" could keep Alan's company running, that it was only a matter of time

before she ran it into the ground, my mom has proved them wrong every step of the way. In 2024, charter accounts for less than five percent of our business, and the focus continues to be on our lifesaving, critical missions that help the people in our community every single day.

This isn't a faceless, soulless corporation; this is a family. I've known some of these people for most of my life. Cheri Naster has been with Helinet since before I was born, I've known Al Sousa since I was six years old, and Abbie Ginsberg since I was younger than that. The people who work here are dedicated, wonderful people and the only thing they're asking for is a safe, clean, and efficient place to work. Helinet isn't expanding, we're not looking to rebuild our facility to fulfill some corporate dream, as a matter of fact that would go against everything we stand for as an organization. All we want is to give our employees a safe place to work, so that they can continue to provide life-saving service to the members of our community. Currently, our people have to work in a building that is falling apart around them. We have to deal with rats and leaks on a regular basis. Our people don't have a kitchen, our pilots don't have a place to rest or shower, we don't even have a proper breakroom. We *need* to rebuild our office, not for show, or to attract fancy clients, but for our own people, so they can feel safe and secure in the place where they work.

Helinet is a one of kind business in this community. We are a woman-owned, sustainability-focused, community-oriented organization that has and always will put our people and our neighbors at the forefront of everything we do. All we are asking for is safe place from which do this.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Michaela Purwin*

Michaela Purwin