

February 6, 2024

VIA EMAIL

City Council
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring Street
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

Honorable Councilmembers:

My name is Darren Holst. Thank you for allowing me to speak in **unequivocal support** of the Bonseph Helinet lease here at 16303 Waterman Drive at Van Nuys Airport.

I am one of the helicopter maintenance mechanics at Helinet Aviation Services. I enjoy sharing that I have been extremely blessed to be hired by Helinet Aviation. I started on August 1st, 2022. Previously, I was a Los Angeles Police Department Patrol Sergeant retiring after 32-1/2 years on July 31st, 2022. And prior to that, for eight years, I was an Active-Duty U.S. Air Force Jet Engine Mechanic. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities I have had in which to live a life of service, and Helinet Aviation has allowed me to continue that life.

Though a for-profit company, Helinet Aviation is known worldwide for its charity. I know my work helps Kathryn Purwin and Helinet Aviation make a tremendous difference in our world, as evidenced by the over 11,000 Children's Hospital missions to date, and the over twenty-five thousand organ transport missions to date.

I look forward to a lengthy career with Helinet Aviation. I look forward to continuing my on-the-job training I am receiving at Helinet Aviation which will allow me to become an FAA licensed Airframe and Powerplant mechanic. I look forward to the daily immense comradery that exists among all of us in maintenance as well as Helinet as a whole. I look forward to the continued collaboration Helinet Aviation has with the world of Law Enforcement Aviation. I look forward to sharing my experience and training as both a mechanic and a pilot as Helinet Aviation pursues partnerships and internships for youth and students seeking careers in aviation. The future of Helinet Aviation is going to be immensely exciting.

I also look forward to new modern facilities in which to complete all the maintenance necessary for Helinet to be so successful. Currently, both hangers, which are not large enough to house even half of our fleet, have no air conditioning, minimal heating, and have multiple roof leaks; making routine maintenance often uncomfortable.

Many years ago, while flying, I had the pleasure of meeting Alan Purwin. I was several years into my LAPD career and had only heard of his many accomplishments. But what I believe was most impressive was his philanthropic generosity. This is why I am at Helinet Aviation, so that it may not only continue, but flourish.

Sincerely,

Darren E. Holst

Darren E. Holst
Helicopter Mechanic
Helinet Aviation Services