

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 729 OF THE BUSINESS
REGULATION CODE PERTAINING TO HELICOPTERS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Richfield, Summit County, State
of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 729 of the Business Regulation Code, being Sections 729.01 through
729.07 and 729.99, be, and the same hereby is enacted to read as follows:

“CHAPTER 729
HELICOPTERS

729.01 DEFINITIONS.

(a) Helicopter. “Helicopter means an air-borne vehicle used for the
transportation of persons or material whose support in the air is normally derived
from the vertical lift or force produced by air-foils or wings mechanically rotated
about an approximately vertical axis.

(b) Heliport. “Heliport” means an area, either at ground level or elevated
on a structure, that is used or intended to be used for landing and taking off of
helicopters and may include some or all of the various facilities useful to helicopter
operations such as maintenance, refueling facilities and storage.

(c) Helistop. “Helistop” means a heliport without auxiliary facilities
intended to be used only for the taking off and landing of helicopters.

729.02 PROHIBITION OF HELIPOINTS.

Heliports are prohibited in any location throughout the Village.

729.03 PERMITTED LOCATIONS FOR HELISTOPS.

A helistop may be conditionally permitted, with the prior approval of the
Planning Commission to insure conformity with this Chapter, at locations in the
Planned Commerce District (PCD), Industrial (I) or Office/Light Industry (O/LI)
Zones only.

729.04 PERMIT PROCESS.

Permits for establishing and maintaining helistops shall be issued to the
owner of the property by the Zoning Inspector after approval of the permit by the
Planning Commission and after the applicant has submitted an application providing
written proof that:

- (a) The helistop is not within five hundred (500) feet of a residential zone
or use.
- (b) The helistop has been inspected and, if applicable, approved and
registered or licensed by either the Division of Aviation of the Ohio
Department of Transportation (ODOT) or the Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA) for compliance with the criteria set forth in the transportation laws of Ohio, annotated with the rules and regulations of Chapter TRA1, TRA2 and TRA3 and amendments thereto and applicable federal regulations.

- (c) Has received such approval and clearance from the FAA as may be required by the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR's).
- (d) Is an accessory use to a permitted principal use in the zoning district in which the helistop is to be located.
- (e) The helistop shall meet the following minimum locational specifications:
 - (1) The landing and take-off area of every location approved or used as a helistop shall consist of a hard surfaced or grassed area with good drainage and free of dust and gravel. The dimensions of such landing and take-off area shall be at least twice the length of any helicopter using it. Such area shall be set aside exclusively for taking off and landing, shall be free of trees, wires or other obstructions and shall be enclosed by a fence at least two feet in height.
 - (2) Every helistop shall have at least two approach paths free and clear of obstructions extending outward and upward from the landing and take-off area at an angle of eight feet horizontally to one foot vertically, flaring to a width of 500 feet at an altitude of 500 feet. The centerline of such approach paths or planes shall be separated by an arc of at least 135 degrees. The remaining peripheral area surrounding the landing and take-off area shall be free and clear of obstructions at an angle of two feet horizontally to one foot vertically to a lateral distance of 250 feet from the landing and take-off area.
 - (3) No approach path shall be used and no helicopter shall be flown at an elevation of less than 500 feet over a residential building, school or other public building, and not less than 200 feet above any other building or public highway, except for the purpose of landing or taking off from an approved helistop.
 - (4) No fueling, repairing or maintenance of helicopters shall be performed at such helistop, except in case of emergency, and no fuel shall be stored.

729.05 SUBMISSION OF PLANS FOR HELISTOP.

Every person, firm or corporation intending to establish and use a helistop within the Village shall first submit plans for approval to the Zoning Inspector. The Zoning Inspector shall, prior to taking action on the plans, refer the plans to the Planning Commission for a report and recommendation as to whether the plans comply with the provisions of this chapter. At a minimum, the plans shall consist of the following:

(a) A statement as to the intended use of the helistop, whether public or private, commercial or otherwise, the identity and financial responsibility of the management, the frequency of flights, a map of the proposed routes of the flights, the size, type and manufacture of equipment intended to be used and the hours of operation.

(b) A plan of the proposed site showing dimensions of the entire usable areas, dimensions of actual landing and take-off areas, all obstructions within 1,000 feet of the helistop, indicating their heights and drawings of flight and approach paths within 1,000 feet of the helistop, and lighting, access and drainage plans.

(c) A report by a professional engineer approved by the Village Engineer showing that the roof structure or platform is designed to support concentrated loads on any one square foot equivalent to three-fourths gross weight of the largest helicopter to be accommodated.

It is not a requirement of this subsection (c) hereof that every square foot of the entire roof area be stressed to withstand such impact load simultaneously, but only that area with which the main landing gear of the helicopter will be in contact. A simple load distributing pad, twenty feet by four inches constructed of a noncombustible material will suffice for the helistop.

729.06 PROHIBITIONS.

(a) No person shall operate a helicopter to or from an approved helistop within the Village without obtaining prior approval as required by this Chapter. Training flights to or from approved helistops in the Village are prohibited under any circumstances.

(b) Helistops within the Village may not be used for any purpose other than to pick up or to discharge passengers or cargo.

(c) No parking or storage of helicopters shall be permitted at any helistop within the Village limits.

(d) No person shall locate or operate a helistop within any residential district of the Village.

729.07 EMERGENCIES.

Helicopter pilots may deviate from the provisions of this chapter in the event of an emergency. A full statement of the reasons for such deviation shall be submitted in writing to the Mayor within twenty-four hours after such deviation.

729.99 PENALTIES.

(a) Any person found guilty of violating any provision of this Chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(b) Each day a violation of this Chapter occurs is a separate offense or violation."

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: February 20, 2001

Michael H. Lyons
President of Council

Ronald W. Larsen
Mayor

Dated: 2/26/2001

ATTEST:

Carole Gibson
Clerk of Council