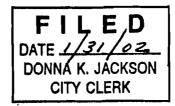
MEDIC ONE AMBULANCE SERVICE

3301 S. Caraway Jonesboro, AR 72401 870-972-0708

January 30, 2002

Jonesboro City Council Attn: Donna Jackson P.O. Box 1845 Jonesboro, AR 72403

Dear Council Members,



Please accept this letter of formal request of appeal with regards to the Jonesboro Metropolitan Area Planning Committee's denial to grant approval for a conditional use permit to allow emergency helicopter operations from our location listed above.

The company that is currently providing this service, Air Evac Lifeteam, is at this time operating from the Jonesboro Municipal Airport. Their company is actively seeking an alternative location for their Jonesboro base including locations other than our city. Their cited reason for the need to relocate is due to excessive operating costs experienced at their current location. Their helicopter emergency medical service based at the Jonesboro Airport location is an unusual operating environment for most services such as theirs, which are normally based at large metropolitan hospitals that help support the tremendous expense of providing such services. At this time, it is my understanding that this is not an endeavor that our local hospitals are able to support to maintain this service in our community.

We are requesting approval to allow their helicopter emergency medical service to be based at our ambulance service location. We feel this service is a tremendous benefit to our community and wish to see it stay here in Jonesboro and are willing to allow them to operate from our facility.

My understanding of the MAPC's reason for denial of our request was their belief that it is better for the helicopter service to be based at the Jonesboro Airport. Apparently, they do not understand that this company must acquire an alternative location in order to survive in this area.

All of the surrounding property owners for our proposed location have been extremely supportive with one exception, which came as a surprise at the MAPC hearing for our request. Prior to our hearing, we contacted all surrounding property owners and informed them of our wishes and asked if they were in any way opposed and there were none. We can support this claim through written documentation. Our current and now apparent opponent to this request is the Latourette family, who owns the property directly to the south of our location, which is currently undeveloped. Their legal counsel claimed that such an operation is unsafe in that area despite the FAA's lack of opposition to such an operation. They also produced a speaker whom alleges to have intention to establish a business on the Latourette property that would have large communication towers and outside workers that they claim would be negatively affected by our proposal. We do not believe these contentions to be valid.

There is a great amount of distance between their property and ours, which includes easements and a very large drainage ditch which separates our properties. Additionally, this helicopter, which is

among the quietest in the industry, is utilized an average of twice a day, making its daily operation within the proposed area less than 20 minutes a day. As you may be aware, many aircraft flying into Jonesboro Municipal Airport fly directly over our proposed location with a much higher degree of frequency than the emergency helicopter service involved.

Another claim is that helicopter operation from our proposed location is not safe in relation to its proximity to the Jonesboro Municipal Airport. Frankly, this is not factual. The FAA states specifically that it finds no objection with regards to utilization of airspace to the placement of our proposed private helipad. Pilots operating the helicopter from the proposed location would continue to communicate with the airport and operating aircraft within the area in order to maintain safe operations. To claim that there would be an increased risk of mid-air collisions with the proposed change is simply not factual.

We would like the opportunity to appear before the Jonesboro City Council to discuss all of the issues relating to our request through formal appeal. We believe the reversal of the MAPC's decision will be a decision that will help keep this valuable service within our city, in the service of the citizens of our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kibler, President